



T I C Talk

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For further information contact :

African Union Commission (AUC) / Department of Trade and Industry / P.O. Box 3243 / Old Airport – Addis Ababa(Ethiopia)
Tel: +251 – 11 518 29 58 /Website: <http://ti.au.int> /Email: DTIinfo@africa-union.org / Facebook:<http://www.facebook.com/AUTradeIndustry>
Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/AUTradeIndustry>



H.E. Mrs. Fatima Haram ACYL, Commissioner for the Department of Trade and Industry

Progress on the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the African Minerals Development Centre within the Context of Agenda 2063

I would like to welcome all our readers to our second edition of TIC TALK the African Union Department of Trade and Industry's quarterly newsletter. I am excited to share an update of what has been happening here in our department and in the continental trade and industry agenda more broadly. 2015 is the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063". The AU Department of Trade and Industry's work is critical in supporting Women's Empowerment across the continent, catalyzing Africa's structural transformation, and realizing Agenda 2063.

Our Department's flagship program is the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area, for which negotiations are set to launch this year. In 2012, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union took a decision to establish the CFTA by the indicative date of 2017. The CFTA holds huge potential for Africa: to drive economic growth, job creation, and women's empowerment, and to catalyze Africa's structural transformation and the realization of the Agenda 2063.

On the 4-5 of December, 2014 at the ministerial meeting held at the AU headquarters, the African Union Ministers of Trade reaffirmed their commitment to launch the CFTA negotiations in June/July 2015. We are advancing continental integration in conjunction with other continental programs, including implementation of the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and the Africa Mining Vision (AMV). The African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) was adopted at 1st extraordinary session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development (CAMRMRD) in November 2014 co-hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe.

And it is critical to point out that we pursue this agenda led by AU member states in close collaboration with our partners. On December 9th, 2014, the AUC signed a Joint Programming Agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK) and Sweden with the goal of providing a framework for coordinated dialogue and support for AUC priorities related to development of trade and customs policies; supporting the Continental Free Trade Area ("CFTA") negotiations; and enhancement of productive capacities on the Continent as defined in the AUC Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

We have reached a critical junction in Africa's economic and social development. The establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area and establishment of robust African owned institutions for minerals development, and other trade related institutions are essential building blocks for the realization of Agenda 2063 and the structural transformation of Africa. We wish you happy reading!

Thank you!

Ministerial Meeting:



African Union Ministers of Trade consider Global Trade and Investments Trends as the Continent prepares to launch the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

The two-day Ministerial Conference of the 9th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade (CAMOT-9) opened on 4th December 2014 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Session was convened for Ministers to deliberate upon, give guidance, and take decisions on a number of trade issues that are crucial for the socio-economic development of the continent.

The objective of the Ministerial meeting is mainly to prepare towards the launch of the Continental Free Trade areas Area negotiations in 2015, as directed by the AU Summit. In this regard, the meeting will consider key documents including the Draft Objectives and Guiding Principles for the negotiations of the CFTA, Draft Institutional Arrangements for CFTA Negotiations. In her opening statement, the AUC Commissioner for Trade and Industry, H.E. Mrs Fatima Haram Acyl, recalled the objective of the meeting and reminded the Ministers that despite the economic growth performance, the Continent is still remaining the epicenter of global poverty. "If the vision set in Agenda 2063 of "an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena "is to be realized, we must intensify our efforts to achieve

rapid, inclusive, poverty-reducing and sustainable economic growth", she mentioned. The Commissioner highlighted that in the current era of globalization, the major challenge confronting African Trade Ministers is to ensure that the continent is well integrated into the Global Trading System and hence trade plays its role as engine of growth and development, for the contribution to the realization of the vision of a prosperous, strong and united Africa as articulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Agenda 2063. Mrs. Acyl also recalled the adoption of the Boosting Intra-African Trade and the fast-tracking of the establishment of the (BIAT/CFTA) by the Heads of State and Government and urged the participants to take action. "The time for rhetoric should now be over and that of concrete action should begin in earnest".

In his remarks Mr. Robert Azevedo, the Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), noted that Africa has unmatched potential with abundant opportunities for trade and investment because it has the youngest population and the highest growth. He underlined that the African Union's Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade is very important and stressed that ongoing regional integration are critical for the creation of the Continental Free Trade Area. "Africa's regional

integration is totally compatible with the multilateral agenda – indeed I think this work will support wider integration into the multilateral trading system. The fact that intra-African trade remains just a tenth of Africa's total trade shows that improving regional integration is critical. But it also shows that engaging at the global and multilateral level remains vital. That's why, while you are pursuing these regional efforts, you are also making your voices heard more loudly than ever at the WTO”, The Director General said.

Taking the floor, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa, stressed the importance of being prepared and to ensure that structural transformation as the pillar for Africa's trade policy framework. “Economic research, as well as the wisdom of our Panafrican thinkers, has long shown that intra-African trade can be the springboard for industrialization. Intra-African trade is already significantly more diversified than Africa's trade with the rest of the world”, he said. (The full statement is available on www.au.int).

On his part, the Executive Director of the International

Trade Center (ITC) Mrs. Arancha Gonzalez, observed that one of the areas the ITC has focused its efforts on is in building a strong relationship, not only with individual countries, but also with the regional economic communities and with the African Union Commission. “We are working with the AUC and the six RECs to develop complementary projects and programmes in support of your strategy to build a Continental Free Trade Area. We approach this through delivering our expertise around six focus areas which we have detailed in our 2015-2017 strategic plan, including trade and market intelligence”, she indicated. “We are also supporting the AUC in the establishment of a Pan-African Trade Observatory”, she added.

The Ministerial conference was attended by the Ministers of Trade and Representatives of AU Member states as well as Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the International Trade Center (ICT), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other key partners.



African Trade Experts meet to discuss the launching of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

The three-day Senior Officials Meeting of the 9th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade (CAMOT-9) opened on Monday 1st December at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Senior Officials session is taking place to prepare for the Ministerial session which will be held on 4th and 5th December, of which will discuss, among other things; global trade and Mega Regional Trade Agreements, Declarations on WTO EPAs, AGOA and investment trends, their implications within

the context of Africa's commitment to forge ahead its integration notably towards the launch of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations in 2015.

The African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade is meeting this year at a point where the Economic Report for Africa 2014 mentions that the industrialization is a “precondition for Africa to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth.” The report also highlights that in the past decade the contribution of manufacturing and industry to

aggregate output and GDP growth has either stagnated or declined for most countries, while, the agriculture sector, which employs up to 60 per cent of the African labour force, is characterized by limited value addition, as forward linkages to industry and service sectors are weak.

In her opening statement, the AUC Director for Trade and Industry, Mrs. Treasure Maphanga, reminded the experts that as Africa meets to discuss the advancement of its regional integration agenda, the world is moving, mentioning examples of the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a trade and Investment agreement that is presently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States, the Trans-pacific Partnership negotiations between the US and Pacific Countries, as well as the FTA which is being negotiated between China, Japan, and South Korea.

Mrs. Maphanga hence stressed that CFTA is an important opportunity to develop and harmonize regulations in a number of trade-related services sectors that will backstop the industrialization process. "As you consider the draft texts for the CFTA negotiations, we wish to remind all of us that the continent is looking for greater ambition than the Tripartite Negotiations. We are seeking to develop an agreement that enables deep integration amongst all African economies, with a focus on Boosting Intra-African Trade and implementing the Action Plan that includes Trade-related Infrastructure, Productive capacity and Trade facilitation", suggested Mrs. Maphanga.

In his remarks on behalf of Dr. Carlos Lopes, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Dr. Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, noted the robust economic growth experienced by Africa over the last decade and driven by high commodity prices had little impact on poverty eradication and had not altered economic structures.

Hence, he said, it is clear that if business as usual persists, Africa is likely to continue seeing growth that will not impact on widespread poverty levels and economic structures will likely remain the same, and that Africa's transformation will be still born, and the risk of being caught up in the middle income trap will become real. "Therefore, as we meet here, it is my hope that our discussions will be informed by the big picture of sustainability and structural transformation of our economies" said Dr. Karingi.

The Establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) was decided in the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2012, which will bring together fifty-four African countries with a combined population of more than one billion people and a combined gross domestic product of more than US \$ 1, 2 trillion dollars.

The first African Women Business Linkages Forum :

African Women in Business meet to build linkages and break barriers

The first African Women Business Linkages Forum kicked off on 18 August 2014 in Nairobi. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission (AUC) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the meeting brings together more than hundred women from across the continent and different development sectors. Most of them are specialized in extractive industries, agriculture, agri-business and agro-industries, in construction engineering, in manufacturing textiles, services sector such as banking, in education, in capacity building, etc. The theme of the Business Linkages Forum is "Building Linkages to Break Barriers."

The Business Linkages Workshop for Women in Business is a timely opportunity for women to network, discover sources of funding, share

experiences and build new partnerships to enhance their entrepreneurial capacities. These experiences will focus on addressing some of the challenges faced by women in business and providing a platform for peer learning from successful business women that have overcome these challenges. The forum aims at bringing African Women in Business together to network, conduct Business to Business (B2B), share experiences and best practices, motivate each other and showcase their businesses and be an inspiration to one another. The expected outcomes are, among others, to facilitate collaborative learning and sharing of experiences, to increase success rates for business startups among women entrepreneurs, to identify and promote business opportunities for women entrepreneurs within the emerging intra-Africa trade Agenda. Moreover, to identify and promote opportunities for women entrepreneurs in dynamic

sectors of the African economy including extractives and agri-business.

In her opening remarks, the Commissioner for Trade and Industry welcomed the participants and started by remembering the women in acknowledged the huge contribution of the women both to the management of households and business industries. "While women often have the primary responsibility for the management of households and national social and economic development, they are rarely recognized, consulted and involved in the planning and management of this social and economic development. In Africa, women produce up to 80 percent of basic things and engaged in the key business and industries, creating employment for hundreds of our youth, yet they have the least access to the means of production", she explained. "Your

smoothly", she said.

On her part, Mrs. Maria-Threase Keating, UNDP Country Director, representing Mr. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, UNDP Resident Representative thanked the African Union Commission and the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa for organizing the Forum centred on the new regional programme designed by both organizations to establish new business linkages and networks aimed at breaking the barriers to women's economic empowerment in Africa. She indicated that the programme seeks to respond to Africa's development priorities and challenges in line with the African Union Women's Decade (2010-2020) and UNDP Strategic Plan as well as the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy. "We at UNDP Kenya warmly welcome this new regional programme and look forward to being a part in its implementation for the



contribution to social and economic transformation is very well demonstrated and I just cannot find enough words to explain it", she added. She urged the participants not only to network and discuss but also to create critical partnership between the AUC and the African Business Women in order to make Africa, "The Africa we want" through the Agenda 2063. "Alongside the Agenda 2063, the African Union Commission is implementing key frameworks and initiatives namely the Boosting Intra-African Trade where we need to increase cross border trade especially for women so that we can create more business and also ensure that all the informal cross border trade is formalized. The other framework is the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) where goods and services and factors of production can move across borders

benefit of Kenyan women and the economy as a whole", she stipulated. Stressing out the contribution of women to employment and wealth creation through entrepreneurship. "The economic empowerment of women is no doubt the key for Africa's sustained economic growth and development. In an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, the critical role of women as economic agents in the development process of any society cannot be overemphasized. This therefore means that equal treatment of women and men is not just the right thing to do but the best that can ever happen in order to move a society forward in terms of socio-economic transformation", she said.

This gathering is planned to take place annually,

empowerment of women is no doubt the key for Africa's sustained economic growth and development. In an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, the critical role of women as economic agents in the development process of any society cannot be overemphasized. This therefore means that equal treatment of women and men is not just the right thing to do but the best that can ever happen in order to move a society forward in terms of socio-economic transformation", she said.

This gathering is planned to take place annually, considering the importance of making the voice of the Women in business heard and inspire young women entrepreneurs working on a legacy for the next generation, in the spirit of Agenda 2063, as we are frequently reminded by the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

Ministerial Meeting:



The African Union Minerals Resources Ministers adopt the draft Statute of the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC)

The 1st Extraordinary session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development (CAMRMRD) at Ministers level, kicked off on 25 November 2014 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The meeting is organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) and co-hosted by both the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objective is to consider important issues arising out of the 3rd Ministerial Conference held in Maputo, Mozambique in December 2013. African Union Ministers in charge of the Mineral sector are also gathered to validate the institutional and sustainable framework developed by the Senior Officials for the establishment of the AMDC.

The 1st Extraordinary session of the CAMRMRD directed the AUC to develop a Statute of the AMDC within the African Union structures reporting mechanism. The first Bureau Meeting of CAMRMRD held in Luanda, Angola on 11 – 13 August 2014, endorsed an AUC recommendation on the establishment of the AMDC as an African Union specialized Agency for the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and requested the AUC to prepare a study on the sustainability of this Centre. At the opening ceremony of the meeting, the Commissioner for the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl, observed a minute of silence in

memory of the late President Mr. Michael Sata, affectionately known as "King Cobra". On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H. E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, she welcomed the participants and thanked the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe for jointly hosting the Conference. "Thank you all for your participation which demonstrates your commitment in discussing what I believe to be one of the most critical issues for the inclusive development of Africa", she said. The Commissioner acknowledged that the Africa Mining Vision is a major step forwards Africa's commitment to change the situation. She recognized that to realize this Vision, implementation at the national and regional level is essential. "Our work this week builds on ongoing efforts across the Continent to develop and manage our mineral resources in a responsible and inclusive manner, in order to achieve the structural transformation of Africa and the realization of the African Union Agenda 2063", she mentioned. She also emphasized the fact that the African Union Commission is engaged in the development of an African Commodities Strategy that supports commodity-led industrialization of Africa. She finally commended the Senior Officials for the dedication demonstrated over the past three days to come up with the important documents to be considered by the African Union Ministers in charge of mineral development.

The Minister of Mines and Mining Development of Zimbabwe, Hon. W. K. Chidakwa stressed the fact that the continent is richly endowed with mineral reserves and ranks first or second in quantity of world reserve of bauxite, cobalt, diamond, phosphate rock, platinum-group metals, vermiculite and zirconium while gold extraction is the key driver of the Africa's mining activities. However, he deplored the fact that in spite of this rich mineralization, African people are still in poverty. "Based on this flawed framework, most of the mining deals and activities on the continent have been opaque and detrimental to Africans. Corruption by both Public and Private sector players has compounded the malaise. Secondly, mining in Africa has been largely extractive without beneficiation or value addition. This has led to African countries exporting cheaply priced raw commodities, while importing expensive refined products", he said. The Minister also pointed out that industrialization can only occur if the continent succeeds in transforming transient mineral wealth into other forms of lasting capital, which outlive the currency of mining and ensure intergenerational equity. "There is need for strong political will and commitment, entrenched belief in the power of indigenous ideas, a capacitated

developmental state, visionary leadership, and a good understanding of Africa's advantages and the dynamics of mineral commodities", he indicated. To achieve Africa's industrialization, Mr. Chidakwa stressed the need for the Africa Mining Vision to have an institutional framework to guide the domestication of the AMV. "Thus, trajectories to achieving the Vision at country and sub-regional levels must be different and phased. The African Minerals Development Center (AMDC) will thus play a key coordinating role in accelerating this process across the continent", he concluded.

The Minister of Mineral Resources of Mozambique, Mr. Victor Borges also Chair of the meeting, thanked the two countries for the excellent facilities provided to the participants. He urged the African Governments to ensure good governance, macro-economic stability, clear policies and competitiveness for the sustainability of the African Minerals Development Center. He then officially declared the meeting open. The meeting is attended by the African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union key partners.



The African Minerals Resources' experts discuss the establishment of the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC)

The 1st Extraordinary session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development (CAMRMRD) at Senior Officials level, kicked off on 22 November 2014 in Livingston, Zambia. The meeting is organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) in close collaboration with both the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objective is to discuss and ensure ownership of the Africa Minerals Development Centre (AMDC). Experts are also gathered to develop an institutional and sustainable framework for the establishment of the AMDC. The meeting is attended by the African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union key partners.

The 1st Extraordinary session of the CAMRMRD directed the AUC to develop an institutional and sustainability framework for the AMDC within the African Union structures reporting mechanism. The first Bureau Meeting of CAMRMRD held in Luanda, Angola on 11 – 13 August 2014, endorsed an AUC recommendation on the establishment of the AMDC as specialized Agency of the African Union Commission for the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and requested the AUC to prepare a study on the sustainability of this Centre.

At opening ceremony of the meeting, the Director for the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, Mrs. Treasure Maphanga, recalled the strategic importance of Africa's mineral resources for inspiration derives from various instruments and protocols that were adopted by the African Union Heads of State and

impetus to the implementation of the African Minerals Development Centre. She underscored the importance of the Mineral Resources Sector partnerships. "We will continue to engage with our partners on mineral resources governance in the context of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), in collaboration with the Department of Political Affairs in the African Union Commission. Beyond Europe, all the partnerships have an interest in this sector. Canada and Australia are core financiers of the AMDC project and their emphasis on capacity building and skills development is appreciated. Our focus on key issues such as Africa's knowledge of its mineral resources endowment inter alia to engage all partners on the basis of our continental vision so that we speak with one voice", she said.

The Zambian Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development, Mr. Richard Musukwa acknowledged that Africa is endowed with abundant mineral resources which should transform the economies for better living standards of its people. "Africa Mineral resource-rich countries need to hasten the implementation of initiatives such as the AMV to enhance benefits for the people. The paradox of high poverty in the midst of abundant natural resources and the growing inequality in many African resources-

rich countries should be the thing of the past", he mentioned. He pointed out that African Governments are aware of the need to maintain a favourable environment so that investment is not stifled. "Having Minerals resources Development Center sustained from own resources will greatly assist Member States in achieving the desired goal. It will also ensure that the AMDC is wholly controlled by Africans for the benefits of Africans", he emphasized. The Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Water of Zambia also insisted that Africa need to respond quickly and put in place appropriate regulatory frameworks and get into the right partnerships in order to attain sustainable development and transform its economies.

The National Director of the Ministry of Mineral Resource of Mozambique, also country Chair of the meeting, urged the African governments to facilitate mineral resources industry framework that includes roles and responsibilities for Governments, Private Sector, workers and Civil Society. He officially opened the meeting which will conclude on Monday 24 November 2014.

The Bureau of the AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development adopt the report on the implementation of the African Mining Development Center (AMDC)



The first Bureau Meeting of the third African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development (CAMRMRD) was held on 13 August 2014 in Luanda, Angola. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission (AUC), the meeting composed of Algeria, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mozambique as well as Angola as host country, RECs and key partners, considered the Senior Officers' report on the institutionalization and the sustainability of the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC). Under the

monitoring and policy guidance of the AUC, the Center will implement the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and foster stability and cooperation in the minerals sector in conjunction with key regional and national mineral development centers and facilitate the effective and predictable integration in the African minerals sector.

The main objectives of the Centre shall be to support African Union Member States in the development and implementation of coherent policies including licensing, contracting, taxation and regulatory

frameworks. It will increase regional mapping and exploration activities to upgrade mineral inventories and geoscientific information data bases. It will also contribute to the Plan of Action for Accelerating Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) through promotion of beneficiation, industrial linkages, responsible investments, innovation and diversification. The Africa Mining Development Center will promote the continent's policy space to pursue local beneficiation, value addition and resource-based industrialization and harness the potential of artisanal and small-scale mining by integrating it into regional and global value chains for inclusive growth and sustainable social and economic development.

In her opening remarks, the Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl recalled the OAU/AU 50 years celebration with the important contribution of Agenda 2063 as a road map for the next 50 years. She explained that the Mineral Resources and other traditional and non-traditional commodities where Africa has huge endowments, will need to play their transformative role in the achievement of the goals and aspirations of the people on the continent. She underscored the importance the Commission attaches to the Mineral Resources sector as a key sector for the realization of the Agenda 2063 and its vision of creating decent employment and wealth for African population especially the youth and women. "The committed leadership of the African Union Commission is determined to ensure that African member States achieve social and economic development which is inclusive and sustainable. However, for this to happen, it requires a Paradigm Shift, strong Political Commitment at national, regional and continental levels, as well as change of mindset of African

communities to own the entire development process of Africa using our natural and human resources. It requires revisiting the way we, as African do things and step out of the box and rethink about how to use our abundant natural resources for benefiting our people. This further requires owning our institutions and processes while working with our key and stakeholders, partners and allies who have Africa's interests at heart", she emphasized.

The Minister of Geology and Mines of Angola, Dr. Francisco Queiros thanked the African Union Commission for having chosen Angola to host the meeting. He explained the geological planning framework of Angola. "Our government has invested 405 million US dollars to conduct geological surveys, to establish a modern headquarters of the institute of Geology and to create three laboratories. We will soon conduct a geological mapping to identify the locations of all our mineral resources", he said. According to the Minister, by investing in infrastructure, Africa will produce wealth and build a strong middle class. He welcomed the AMDC, a Center to be fully owned and controlled by Members States.

Amongst other recommendations to the Ministers, the proposal for the establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre as an organ of the African Union Commission has been endorsed for further recommendation to the upcoming extraordinary Session of Ministers.

As the way forward, the first extraordinary session of the AU Conference of Ministers responsible for mineral resources development will take place in Zambia/Zimbabwe in end of October 2014.

African Union Senior Officials responsible for mineral resources development discuss fast tracking the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision

In preparation for the first Bureau Meeting of the third African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development (CAMRMRD) to be held on 13 August 2014, Senior Officials of the Bureau, composed of Algeria, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mozambique as well as RECs and key partners, met to formulate recommendations to be considered by Ministers with regard to the implementation of the AMV, and in particular, the institutionalization and sustainability of the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC).

The formulation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) is one of the major steps that was taken by the Member

States in order to transform the Minerals Sector in the African continent. The AMV was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at their Assembly held in Addis in February 2009, the AU Heads of State and Government requested "Member States to improve their mineral resources policies, establish appropriate institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks, and invest in human skills, research and development, and geological and geophysical data, that are critical for the efficient and effective management of mineral resources". They also called upon "the Commission and NEPAD Secretariat, as well as RECs to accelerate the establishment, across Africa,

of major integrated corridors for the development and optimal exploitation of the continent's natural resources".

The current technical Senior Officials meeting is expected to review the process made since the 3rd AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Mineral Resources Development held in Maputo, Mozambique in December 2013. One of the key



objectives is to prepare proposals for the institutionalization and sustainability of the African Mineral Development Centre, which was launched in Maputo as a project aimed at providing policy advisory services to member states in line with the AMV Action Plan.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Treasure Thembisile Maphanga, Director for the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission recalled the objectives of the meeting and underscored the importance of the Mineral Resources Sector in the strategic partnerships at continental level. "As we progress with the national efforts to move forward on the implementation of the AMV Action Plan, it is evident to all that Regional Economic Communities have a critical role to play in coordinating and providing support to Member States. We also value the essential contribution of the private sector, civil society, and various intergovernmental organizations in full alignment with our Vision. During this meeting we will be seeking your input on how best to engage with these stakeholders in the short term as well as the medium to long term", she said. She also stressed the importance of the Agenda 2063 by highlighting the progress made over the last 50 years. Mrs. Maphanga mentioned that the realization of the Agenda 2063 vision will critically require that the minerals sector plays its transformative role in the socio economic transformation of Africa. "Having recognized what has transpired over the past 50 years and building on the

achievements it made when the African continent has been free of colonial domination, the next 50 years are critical for Africa's achievement of economic freedom. Agenda 2063 is a framework with milestones, flagship projects to create a continent that is united, peaceful and prosperous", she concluded.

On his part, the Deputy Minister of Geology and Mines of Angola, Mr. Miguel Bondo Junior recalled the

mining history of Angola and urged the Senior Officials to rapidly implement the African Mining Vision. "As an African country, Angola is in line with the Africa Mining Vision policy to help the continent to deal with the needs of the growing demand of development of the basic mineral products so as to reap benefits that may be used in the effort of eradicating poverty and improving the African people's living standards", he said. He concluded by wishing successful deliberations to the participants.

The opening session was also addressed by the representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) which is currently hosted at the UNECA secretariat in Addis Ababa. He provided an overview of the Centre's activities and pledged its support towards the realization of the goals and objectives of the AMV. The AMDC is a partnership that includes the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank under the leadership of the African Union Commission. Finally, the Chairperson of the Bureau, Dr. Edouardo Alexandre in his opening remarks, underscored the importance of the meeting as the outcomes will be considered by the Ministerial Meeting scheduled to commence today.

MINISTERS GATHER IN NAIROBI FOR THE 1ST BUREAU MEETING OF THE 20TH CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY (CAMI-20).



Organized by the Department of Trade and industry of the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the Bureau of the AU Conference of Ministers of Industry gathered to consider the recommendations of the senior officials session which took place on 21st September 2014. The meeting was attended by Bureau Members including Kenya as Chair, Chad, Libya, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the United Nations Industrial Development for Africa (UNIDO).

The meeting was held against the backdrop and in solidarity with the people of Kenya who were commemorating the first anniversary of the attacks of the West Gate mall. However, Africa has to move forward and find its way as a continent through industrialization which has been identified as a key element in achieving Agenda 2063. "This Bureau meeting is thus being held in a period where the African Union member States are in the process of re-orienting their development planning to align with Agenda 2063, working towards achieving social and economic structural transformation using the abundant natural resources. It is indeed a period where we, as Africans, are defining a "Paradigm Shift" to ensure that we move away from a Continent traditionally exporting its resources in raw and unprocessed form to a continent highly industrialized and economically independent", **H.E Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl AUC Commissioner for Trade and**

Industry said in her opening remarks.

In addition she said: "This Bureau of the CAMI 20 is also presiding over the end of the traditional Conferences of Ministers, because as from next year, these Ministerial Conferences will be replaced by the "Specialized Technical Committees"(STCs) where the Ministers responsible for Trade, the Ministers responsible for Industry and The Ministers responsible for Mineral Resources Development will be meeting in combine session". Further, she emphasized that the mechanisms for financing industrialization, policies for industrialization, engaging private sectors and Gender supportive strategies and polices are important issues that should be addressed during the STC meetings.

Hosting this Bureau meeting, the Minister of Industrialization and Enterprise Development of Kenya, H.E. Mr. Adan Abdulla Mohammed welcomed the delegates and stated "indeed, as leaders and policy makers, we must channel our collective efforts in ensuring that Africa's resources, which have triggered renewed interest globally are harnessed for the benefit of our peoples...". H.E Mr. Mohammed highlighted the importance of harmonizing all programs to go along with Agenda 2063.

Ms. Amita Misra, Director of Regional Bureaus, UNIDO underlined that "Today's meeting is indeed important. It provides an opportunity for us all as stakeholders to do an introspection of ourselves in terms of where we are in our common agenda to help Africa industrialize. More importantly, this meeting provides an

opportunity for us to come up with solutions to ensure that what is agreed in the various meetings undertaken within the CAMI Framework are followed up in more concrete ways that in turn, ensure effective delivery of desired results" she added UNIDO efforts towards industrialization continues to be heightened as evidenced by the new mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable development (ISID) endorsed by Member states in December 2013. The new mandate emphasizes social inclusivity, sustainability and partnerships as key ingredients for industrialization". The meeting underlined that Africans need to take specific action to support industrialization by

formulating specific bankable projects , Aligning all the National development plan with Agenda 2063, Urging Member States to strengthen the development of financial institution to industrialization development and Identifying regional champions at national level to mobilize industry resources from different stakeholders including the private sector.

The recommendations of this meeting will be presented on the next meeting of African Ministers of Industry.

RETREAT OF STAKEHOLDERS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC ISSUES AND ELABORATE A JOINT WORK PLAN FOR 2015.



Organized by the Department of Trade and industry of the African Union Commission and held under the framework of the implementation of the Joint Partners and Stakeholders work plan in line with AUC/UNDP Strategic plan 2014-2017, the AUC Stakeholders Strategic Retreat commenced on 23 September 2014. It is a follow-up meeting of the outcomes of the 1st stakeholders Strategic meeting which took place under the theme of "Moment of Truth" from 9-11 February 2014 in Midrand, South Africa.

Dr. Bruce Mukanda, Ag. Director of AU-IBAR started the series of the opening remarks by welcoming all participants to Nairobi and specifically to AU-IBAR office that graciously offered its premises to hold the Retreat. His speech was followed by the ones of UNECA/AMDC, UNIDO, UNWOMEN, COMESA and PACCI respectively.

During four (4) days, the participants will (i) Review the

Implementation of AUC (Industry Division)/NEPAD, UNIDO, UNECA Work plans 2014, (ii) Develop joint Work Plans for 2015, (iii) Align Key Stakeholders' and Partners' Work Plans for 2015 with AUC Continental Frameworks and Initiatives, (iv) Review and discuss the Continental Commodities Strategy Concept note, Road map for the Rolling out of the Investment Monitoring Platform and (v) Follow-up on the Roles and Responsibilities of AUC key Stakeholders for the implementation of Industry Initiatives within the framework of Boosting Intra African Trade, the realization of the Continental Free Trade Area as well and all these subjects, will be discussed in the context of Agenda 2063.

Respective presentations will be made and will be open for discussion. It is an opportunity to share experiences, occasions and challenges, to coordinate and to create cohesion and synergy in all activities at

National and regional levels related to Trade and Industry domain. Specific emphasis will be made on Women initiatives.

The frequency of this meeting is twice a year in order to increase efficiency in the implementation and

particularly in improving the communication and sharing of information on the joint work plan.

The Sub-Committee of the Directors General of Customs of the African Union endorses the report of the experts on Interconnectivity for Improved Trade Facilitation



The 6th Meeting of the African Union Sub-committee of the Directors General of Customs kicked off on 25 September 2014 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. Jointly organized by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission and the Congolese Customs and Excise, the aim of the meeting is to consider and endorse the draft recommendations submitted by the experts under the theme “Interconnectivity for Improved Trade Facilitation”. In addition to the Directors General coming from more than twenty Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), as well as the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will review the work done so far by the various technical working groups with a view to facilitating trade and they will also share views and reflect on the implementation of the theme of the meeting.

The Sub-committee of Directors General of Customs

is one of the policy organ of the African Union. Its mandate is to advise Trade Ministers on customs and Trade Facilitation issues with regard to the African Integration Agenda. In the framework of the Architecture of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), this organ works mainly on trade facilitation. To this end, this Sub-committee meets once a year to examine various issues relating to customs and trade facilitation. This year, the meeting of Directors General of Customs will assess the work carried out to date by the technical working groups which examined in detail specific issues among which are, the Rules of Origin, the issue of Integrity and ethics in Customs, Customs Capacity Building, as well as interconnectivity of computerized Customs Clearance systems. The meeting will also examine the activities of the Customs Cooperation Division of the African Union Commission and give the necessary guidance for the implementation of its projects.

In her opening statement, the Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Her Excellency, Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl thanked the Republic of Congo for accepting to host

the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants. She highlighted the necessity of customs to modernize by developing infrastructure as well as performing computing software. "Modernizing Customs services would considerably reduce the informal trade flows, reduce smuggling, corruption, enlarging as such the tax base. Likewise, computerized systems differ from one country to another on the continent: 40 countries use ASYCUDA system or ASYCUDA++ while other countries have their own systems. It is important to adapt the Nairobi and Johannesburg Conventions to our needs in partnership with the public sector in order to reach a common platform on the best system to be used or which may interface in order to make customs procedures easier. We are also aware of the fact that, interconnectivity of information and computerized customs system depend on the accessibility, and efficiency of telecommunication and electricity services. Nonetheless, with some will and commitment, any impediment can be overcome, she explained. As regards trade facilitation, the Commissioner said that it is mostly relevant in the context of relevant integration since it takes into account measures concerning trans-border procedures such as: transit, specifically for landlocked countries. "Trade facilitation goes in line with computerization of customs systems which increases efficiency, while reducing delay and customs

procedures costs. The ongoing efforts to set up a regional single window might have a significant impact on such countries, mainly in landlocked countries, considering the fact that a Africa equipped with the best interconnection between countries of the continent and the rest of the world benefit from development of its markets", she pointed out.

The Congolese Director General for Customs and Excise, Mr. Jean Alfred Onanga, explained that the improvement of Intra-African Trade Facilitation will depend on the level of interconnectivity of customs systems and computerized information exchange. "This problematic will be considered in detail during this meeting and will contribute, I am convinced, to the improvement of the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area", she explained.

The Minister of State, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Mr. Florent Ntsiba, first congratulated the experts of the work achieved. He urged them to come up with strong and convincing recommendations for the implementation of the Interconnectivity for Improved Trade Facilitation. He concluded by wishing the participants full success for their work.

Countries in Africa and China renew their commitment to jointly eliminating poverty Conference to balance Africa's economic transformation with development.

Le Sous-comité des Directeurs Généraux des Douanes de l'Union Africaine valide le rapport des experts sur l'Interconnectivité pour une meilleure facilitation du commerce



La réunion du Sous-comité des Directeurs Généraux des douanes de l'Union Africaine a démarré 25 septembre 2014 à Brazzaville, République du Congo. Co-organisée par le Département du Commerce et de l'Industrie de la Commission de l'Union Africaine et les Douanes congolaises, la réunion a pour objectif d'examiner et de valider le projet de recommandations élaboré par les experts sous le thème «Interconnectivité pour une meilleure facilitation du commerce». En plus des Directeurs Généraux de plus d'une vingtaine d'Etats membres, les Communautés Economiques Régionales (CER), l'Organisation Mondiale des Douanes, la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique (CEA) ainsi que la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le Commerce et le Développement (CNUCED), les participants procéderont à l'examen du travail effectué jusque-là par les différents groupes de travail techniques en vue de la facilitation du commerce et à l'examen du Plan d'action pour l'intensification du Commerce Intra-Africain. Ils partageront leurs points de vue et réfléchiront à la mise en œuvre du thème de la réunion.

Le Sous-comité des Directeurs généraux des douanes est l'un des organes politiques de l'Union africaine. Il a le mandat de conseiller les Ministres du commerce sur les questions douanières par rapport à l'Agenda d'intégration de l'Afrique. Dans le cadre de l'Architecture de la Zone de libre-échange continentale, cet organe travaille principalement sur la facilitation des échanges. C'est dans ce sens que ce Sous-Comité se rencontre annuellement pour discuter de questions relatives à plusieurs procédures douanières et la facilitation du commerce. Cette année, la réunion des Directeurs généraux des douanes évaluera tout le travail qui a été accompli à cette date par les groupes de travail techniques qui examinent en profondeur des questions spécifiques dont entre autres, les règles d'origine, les questions d'intégrité et d'éthique, la formation, l'automatisation ainsi que l'interconnectivité. La réunion doit aussi examiner les activités de la Division de coopération douanière de la Commission de l'Union Africaine et donner des orientations nécessaires pour la mise en œuvre de ses projets.

Dans son discours d'ouverture, la Commissaire en charge du Département du Commerce et de l'Industrie, Son Excellence, Mme Fatima Haram Acyl a remercié la République du Congo et son Président Son Excellence, M. Denis Sassou Nguesso pour avoir accepté d'abriter la réunion et pour l'hospitalité dont le pays a fait preuve à l'endroit des participants. Elle a évoqué la nécessité pour les Douanes de se moderniser en développant l'infrastructure ainsi que des logiciels informatiques performants. « La modernisation des services douaniers diminuerait considérablement les flux du commerce informel, réduirait la contrebande et la corruption, élargissant ainsi la base d'imposition. De même, les systèmes

informatiques varient sur le continent : 40 pays utilisent le système SYDONIA ou SYDONIA ++ alors que d'autres ont leurs propres systèmes. Il est important d'adapter les Conventions de Nairobi et de Johannesburg à nos besoins en partenariat avec les secteurs public et privé, afin de trouver une plateforme d'entente sur les meilleurs systèmes à utiliser ou qui soient inter-opérables dans le but de faciliter les procédures douanières. Nous sommes aussi conscients que l'interconnectivité de l'information et des systèmes douaniers informatisés dépend de l'accessibilité et l'efficacité des services de télécommunication et d'électricité. Néanmoins, avec la volonté et l'engagement, il n'y a pas d'obstacles insurmontables », a-t-elle expliqué. Pour ce qui concerne la facilitation du Commerce, la Commissaire a indiqué qu'elle est surtout pertinente dans le contexte de l'intégration régionale car a-t-elle dit, elle prend en charge des mesures concernant les procédures transfrontalières telles que le transit, en particulier pour les pays sans littoral. « La facilitation des échanges va de pair avec l'informatisation des systèmes douaniers qui accroît l'efficacité tout en réduisant les délais et les coûts des procédures douanières. Les efforts en cours pour développer un guichet unique régional pourraient avoir un impact significatif sur les pays, en particulier les pays sans littoral, étant donné qu'une Afrique dotée de meilleures interconnexions, entre pays du continent et avec le reste du monde verrait ses marchés se développer considérablement », a-t-elle insisté. Pour sa part, le Directeur Général des Douanes et des Droits Indirects du Congo, M. Jean Alfred Onanga a expliqué que l'amélioration de la facilitation des échanges commerciaux intra-africains sera consécutive au niveau de l'interconnectivité des systèmes douaniers et orientés vers l'échange électronique des informations. « Cette problématique qui fera l'objet d'une réflexion approfondie à l'occasion des présentes assises, contribuera, j'en suis sûr, à l'avancement de la mise en place de la Zone de Libre-échange Continentale (ZLEC) », a-t-il indiqué. Le Ministre d'Etat, Ministre du Travail et de la Sécurité sociale, M. Florent Tsiba, a d'abord félicité les experts pour le travail abattu. Il a ensuite demandé aux Directeurs Généraux de prendre des décisions pertinentes pour la modernisation. Il a enfin souhaité aux Directeurs Généraux des Douanes, plein succès dans leurs travaux.



Directors General of Customs at expert level discuss Interconnectivity for improved trade facilitation

The Experts group preparatory meeting of the 6th Ordinary meeting of the African Union Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs kicked off on 22 September 2014 in Congo, Brazzaville. The meeting is co-organized by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission and the Customs and Excise of the Republic of Congo. During the next two days customs experts from African Union Member States and the Customs Departments of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Economic for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will review the reports of the Customs Technical Working Groups in addressing the issues in the Trade Facilitation Cluster of the Action Plan on Boosting addressing the issues in the Trade Facilitation Cluster of the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) as well as the WTO Trade Facilitation. They will also exchange views and reflect on the way forward on the theme of the meeting “Interconnectivity for improved Trade Facilitation”.

Trade Facilitation initiatives, if properly implemented can play a critical role in boosting intra African trade. In her opening remarks, the Director for the Department of Trade and Industry, Mme Treasure Thembisile Maphanga not only recalled the theme and the objectives of the meeting but also highlighted the advantages of Trade Facilitation. Trade Facilitation in Africa she said, would benefit not only importers and consumers who, most times have to contend with higher prices induced by red tape in import

Les Experts Douaniers de l'Union Africaine échantent sur l'Interconnectivité pour une meilleure facilitation du commerce

La réunion des experts du Sous-comité des Directeurs Généraux des douanes de l'Union Africaine a démarré le 22 septembre à Brazzaville, Congo. Co-organisée par le Département du Commerce et de l'Industrie de la Commission de l'Union Africaine et les Douanes congolaises, la réunion a pour objectif d'examiner les rapports des réunions organisées par la Division de Coopération douanière et de faire des recommandations qui elles seront adoptées par les Directeurs Généraux des Douanes. Pendant les deux prochains jours, les experts venus des Etats membres, des Communautés Economiques Régionales (CER), de l'Organisation Mondiale des Douanes, de la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique (CEA) ainsi que des experts de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le Commerce et le Développement (CNUCED), procéderont à l'examen du travail effectué jusque-là par les différents groupes de travail techniques en vue de la facilitation du commerce et à l'examen du Plan d'action pour l'intensification du Commerce Intra-Africain. Ils partageront leurs points de vue et réfléchiront à la mise en œuvre du thème de la réunion : «Interconnectivité pour une meilleure facilitation du commerce».

Les initiatives de facilitation du commerce, lorsqu'elles sont adéquatement mises en œuvre, peuvent contribuer à l'intensification du Commerce Intra-Africain. Dans son discours d'ouverture, la Directrice du Département du Commerce et de l'Industrie, Mme Treasure Thembisile Maphanga a rappelé le thème et les objectifs de la réunion. Mettant l'accent sur les avantages relatifs à la facilitation du commerce, elle a

administration, but exporters too. It would enable firms to increase their continental share of trade in goods and services as a consequence of lower transactions costs. It would also reduce compliance costs, service charges, business opportunity costs and costs associated with uncertainty and corruption", she mentioned. According to the Director, Trade Facilitation can also benefit the public sector by bringing more efficient control methods, better resource allocation, higher revenues, improved trade compliance, faster economic development, and a climate conducive to foreign investment. "There is ample empirical evidence that trade facilitation reduces Customs delays and other costs considerably, while also raising revenue", she added.

Addressing the theme of the meeting, Mrs. Maphanga underscored that there is a growing need for interconnection of computerized customs clearance systems so as to cut on the time for clearance and movement of goods and persons across borders. This, she said, will no doubt allow for closer real-time collaboration between Customs administrations and between Customs and business in facilitating legitimate trade and undertaking Customs controls.

On his part, the Director General of Customs of Congo M. Jean Alfred Onanga, recalled the low level of the Intra-African Trade. He urged the participants to come up with fruitful, rich and sound recommendation on Interconnectivity and Trade facilitation in order to boost the Intra-African Trade.

The 6th Ordinary meeting of the African Union Sub-Committee of Directors General of customs will be held from 25-26 September 2014 in Brazzaville, Congo. The expected outcome will be a set of recommendations that will guide the thinking of the Conference of Ministers of Trade so that the latter may be able to channel decisions to the highest level, i.e. to the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government through the Executive Council.

reconnu que les infrastructures s'améliorent de plus en plus en Afrique mais qu'elles doivent être utilisées afin de s'assurer que le continent exploite pleinement sa grande réserve de ressources naturelles. « La facilitation du commerce en Afrique bénéficierait non seulement aux importateurs et aux consommateurs qui, la plupart du temps doivent faire face à l'inflation liée aux importations douanières mais aussi aux exportateurs. Elle permettra aux entreprises d'augmenter leur part continentale de commerce en biens et services comme étant la résultante des bas coûts liés aux transactions. Il permettrait également de réduire les coûts de conformité, les frais de service, les coûts d'opportunité d'affaires et les coûts associés à l'incertitude et à la corruption.», a-t-elle déclaré. A en croire la Directrice, si elle judicieusement mise en place, la facilitation du commerce peut profiter au secteur privé en permettant des contrôles plus efficaces, une meilleure répartition des ressources, des revenus plus élevés, l'amélioration des règles du commerce, un développement accéléré et un climat propice à l'investissement étranger. "Il est largement admis que la facilitation du commerce réduit considérablement les temps d'attente au niveau des frontières tout en augmentant les recettes ", a-t-elle ajouté.

Abordant les défis relatifs au thème de la réunion, Mrs. Maphanga a souligné qu'il a un besoin croissant pour l'interconnectivité pour une meilleure facilitation du commerce et ce, afin de réduire les délais d'attente et encourager la libre circulation des personnes et des biens au niveau des frontières. Ceci, a-t-elle dit, permettra sans doute une collaboration plus étroite en temps réel entre les administrations douanières et entre les douanes et les entreprises en facilitant le commerce licite et les contrôles douaniers. « La nouvelle exigence est de créer, en partenariat avec les différentes parties prenantes des secteurs public et privé un réseau douanier global avec l'appui du système commercial international. Le but ultime d'un tel réseau implique la création d'un réseau international "e-Douanes" qui assurerait de façon transparente en temps réel des flux d'information et de connectivité dématérialisés », a-t-elle insisté.

Pour sa part, le Directeur Général des Douanes congolaises M. Jean Alfred Onanga, a rappelé le faible niveau de Commerce Intra-Africain. Il a alors exhorté les participants à travailler et à produire une contribution fructueuse, riche et féconde sur l'interconnectivité et la facilitation du commerce afin de stimuler le Commerce Intra-Africain.

La réunion du Sous-comité des Directeurs Généraux se tiendra du 25 au 26 septembre prochain à Brazzaville en République du Congo. Le principal résultat attendu sera un ensemble de recommandations qui guideront la réflexion de la Conférence des Ministres du Commerce afin que ceux-ci soient en mesure de soumettre les décisions au plus haut niveau tel que le Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement par le biais du Conseil exécutif.

Countries in Africa and China renew their commitment to jointly eliminating poverty - Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development Conference

Concluding a large gathering to share experiences on reducing poverty, African and Chinese officials called on 19 November 2014 for a deepening of the partnership between the two partners. Co-hosted by the Government of Ethiopia, the African Union Commission, the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the conference explored the current state of development work in Africa and identified key areas for joint initiatives.

The conference was attended by around 200 participants, including government officials from African countries and China, diplomatic communities

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, "in that it is almost unthinkable to realize the African dream of becoming an industrialized, united and prosperous continent by 2063 only through Africa's own technology generation."

Over the past three decades China has seen considerable economic growth and succeeded in bringing millions of people out of poverty, thanks to specific policies designed to achieve agricultural and industrial growth and targeted initiatives to increase people's opportunities and livelihoods.

At the same time, China is facing new challenges that are prompting the country to adapt its growth and



in Addis, as well as renowned experts and scholars and those from the private sector, civil society and international organizations.

H.E. Ms Fatima Haram Acyl, the Commissioner for the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, recognized and acknowledged that no country has been able to reach an acceptable level of socio-economic development without industrialization. She underscored that China was at a much lower level of development than Africa before becoming the second largest economy in the world. "This can only be achieved by Africa through hard work, sacrifices and pro-industrialisation policies. The success of China is quite inspiring, and we are learning from that experience and intend to take more advantage of our privileged partnership with China to progress," she mentioned.

"Benchmarking China's best practices in industrialization is essential," emphasized also Mulatu Teshome, the President of the Federal

poverty reduction strategies to face new realities in the global economy.

A background report "China's Industrialization: Overview-Implications for Africa's Industrialization" and a comparative study on Special Economic Zones in China and African countries jointly commissioned by UNDP China and IPRCC was presented at the conference. Drawing on the Chinese experience, the background report sheds light on Africa's industrialization process, while looking at the possibility of improving Special Economic Zones in Africa to increase job and income opportunities.

"The Conference is one of the concrete steps to implement the Program for Strengthening Cooperation on Poverty Reduction between the People's Republic of China and the African Union which was released during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to AU in May this year", noted Mr Si Shujie, Vice Minister of the China State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and

Development, " to boost experience sharing and collaborations on poverty eradication between China and Africa is thus of mutual concern & benefit especially critical for efforts to attain the MDGs and post-2015 agendas."

"Well-crafted industrial development which supports inclusive growth and considers the environment will play a critical role in making transformation sustainable over the long-term", said Eugene Owusu, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Ethiopia, "In seeking to drive industrial growth, we need strong partnerships. Such South-South co-operation can bring new opportunities for exchange and learning, financing, investment, trade, and also industrial development." With the theme of 'Industrial Development: Cross-Perspectives from Africa and China', the conference focused on the future of Africa's development with an emphasis on how to balance industrialization with inclusive growth.

Understanding that growth doesn't necessarily translate into inclusive development, the conference looked into three main areas: analysis of challenges and opportunities, development of robust public-private partnerships and experience sharing from other industrializing countries in both Africa and Asia. Poverty reduction has become a priority area of Africa-China cooperation as pointed out by Premier Li Keqiang during his visit in May 2014. Outcomes of this conference will be rolled out the follow-up initiatives and will also be fed into preparations for the next FOCAC in South Africa in 2015. Continuing initiatives in partnership between AUC, IPRCC and UNDP will strengthen cooperation between China and African nations and the South-South experience-sharing between China and Africa to bolster African growth underpinned by poverty reduction.

Uganda validates the African Union Report on Higher Education Services in Uganda



The department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission convened on 16 October 2014, a one-day workshop to deliberate on the African Union Report on Education services in Uganda. The workshop was organized by the African Union Commission and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives of Uganda with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The objectives of the workshop was to bring together various stakeholders in the education sector to review the findings of the study on High Education Services in Uganda and share recommendations to improve competitiveness the sector.

Within the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade and the Framework for fast tracking the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017, the African Union Heads of State and Government identified trade in services as an important emerging opportunity and called upon the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities to assist Member States in service sector development .The key challenge with the service sector, is limited information for policy makers to rely on to make the necessary policy development. Hence, the case study on higher education sector in Uganda was commissioned; to promote the knowledge and understanding of exporting higher education

services and identify best practices to be shared among AU Member States.

In his opening statement, Mr. Chenjerai Chibaya, on behalf of the Director for the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission expressed his gratitude to the Government of Uganda for hosting the workshop. He noted that education is one of the key components of the Agenda 2063, and recalled the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission with the University of South Africa (UNISA) to promote Research and Development. "The report on Education Services in Uganda is part of a series of studies in select African Union Member states to highlight success stories and lessons learned in services exports in Africa. The Education sector in Uganda has been identified as one of the case studies because of its success in the region", he said. In his conclusion he stressed that the role of Government in the education sector is paramount to ensure quality, competitiveness and

encourage investment.

Mr. Patrick Okilangole, the Ag. Commissioner External Trade Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, thanked the African Union Commission for commissioning the study on Education services in Uganda. He highlighted that education sector in Uganda is one of the most successful service exports in Africa. "The study examined the policy context for higher education in Uganda and investigated how supportive the policy has been to the higher education institutions exports efforts. The study further reviewed the strengths, weaknesses challenges as well as emerging opportunities to Uganda's export of higher education", he emphasized. "I am happy to note that this study attempted to identify the elements in Uganda's regional and international commitments that Ugandan universities and institutions of higher learning can take advantage of the increase the enrollment of foreign students in Uganda", he concluded.



African Union Experts develop a Curriculum Guide for Customs Administrations for the Continental

A three day African Union Expert Group Workshop on the Development of a Curriculum Guide for Customs Administrations for the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and Regional Integration kicked off on 23 July 2014 in Dar es Salam. The meeting is co-organised by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission and the

Des experts de l'Union Africaine élaborent un guide de formation pour les administrations douanières pour la Zone de Libre-échange Continentale (CFTA) et l'intégration régionale

L'atelier du Groupe d'experts de l'Union Africaine (UA) sur l'élaboration d'un guide de formation pour les administrations douanières pour la Zone de Libre-échange Continentale (ZLEC) et

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). In the three days, customs experts from Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), training experts from various African institutions offering training in trade-related areas and Experts from World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Training Centers, will examine among others, the challenges and opportunities of implementing capacity Building Programs in African Customs Administrations, they will make recommendations for implementing effective capacity Building Programs in Customs administrations and they will also make technical proposals for areas requiring Capacity Building in Regional Integration and for Implementing the CFTA.

The Workshop is organized as a follow-up to the recommendations of the 3rd African Union Technical Working Group Workshop on Capacity Building held in Lilongwe, Malawi in July 2009. The aforementioned Workshop among others called for the need to develop awareness sessions to sensitize stakeholders on the integration programs of the Commission and to develop training courses for Customs Administrations in Regional Integration. The Workshop will build on the work carried out by the 4th AU Technical Group Workshop on Capacity Building held in September 2011 in Mombasa, Kenya. The Mombasa workshop identified some areas on

l'intégration régionale, a démarré le 23 juillet 2014 à Dar es Salam. La réunion est co-organisée par le Département du Commerce et de l'Industrie de la Commission de l'Union Africaine et l'Autorité Tanzanienne des Recettes. Pendant trois jours, des experts en douanes des États membres de l'UA, des experts en douanes des Communautés Economiques Régionales (CER), des experts en formation des diverses institutions africaines offrant de la formation dans les domaines commerciaux et connexes ainsi que des experts des Centres de formation régionaux de l'Organisation Mondiale des Douanes (OMD) examineront entre autres, les défis et les opportunités de la mise en œuvre de programmes de renforcement des capacités dans les administrations douanières africaines. Ils formuleront des recommandations pour la mise en œuvre efficace des programmes de renforcement des capacités dans les administrations douanières et feront également des propositions techniques dans les domaines qui nécessitent le renforcement des capacités en matière d'intégration régionale et pour la mise en œuvre de la Zone de Libre-échange Continentale.

L'atelier est organisé dans le cadre du suivi des recommandations du 3e atelier du Groupe de travail technique sur le renforcement des capacités de l'UA



Regional Integration which were recommended for inclusion in the curriculum currently being offered by the United Nations Africa Institute for Economic Development Planning (IDEPI). Given the dynamic nature of the Customs environment, it has not only become necessary to pursue this line of work but also update Customs capacity building requirements so as to take on board recent developments in the area of Trade and Trade Facilitation both at the global and continental levels. One major development at the continental level was the adoption of a decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.394 [XVIII]) by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the 18th Ordinary Session of their Assembly held in

tenu du 16 au 17 juillet 2009 à Lilongwe (Malawi). Ledit atelier a, entre autres, souligné la nécessité d'organiser des séances de sensibilisation à l'intention des parties prenantes sur les programmes d'intégration de la Commission et d'élaborer des cours de formation pour les administrations douanières dans le domaine de l'intégration régionale. Le présent atelier s'est appuyé sur le travail effectué par le 4e atelier du Groupe technique de l'UA sur le renforcement des capacités tenu du 19 au 20 septembre 2011 à Mombasa au Kenya. Cet atelier a identifié certains domaines de l'intégration régionale qui ont été recommandés pour inclusion dans le programme actuellement en cours de l'Institut

January 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Fast tracking the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by the indicative date of 2017 as an, as well as the endorsement of the Road Map, Action Plan and Architecture in Boosting Intra Africa Trade, composed of seven clusters, one of which is on Trade Facilitation. In his opening remarks, Mr. Aly Ibouira Moussa, Acting Head of the Customs Cooperation Division for the Department of Trade and Industry of African Union Commission recalled the objectives of the workshop. He reminded the participants that the expected outcomes are recommendations on areas related to capacity building, integration and trade facilitation. Mr. Moussa pointed out that African integration has become a crucial stake for the Continent. "The construction of this vast African market should be based on the regional economic communities. Some of them have already achieved very significant levels of integration, while others have launched joint initiatives to build inter-communities programs. The case of the Tripartite free trade area COMESA-EAC-SADC under construction is edifying", he mentioned. On his part, the Deputy Commissioner for Customs at Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) appreciated the efforts of the African Union Commission in conceptualizing, facilitating and coordinating the workshop. "We are delighted to have you here to participate and share experiences given the dynamic nature of trade and customs environment hence update customs capacity building requirements in order to take on board recent developments in trade facilitation globally", he said. The Deputy Commissioner also said he is optimistic that the workshop will come up with recommendations for areas requiring capacity building in regional integration and for the implementation the Continental Free Trade Area. "The effectiveness of this workshop will lead us to an efficient and effective customs administration to significantly influence economic growth since it is universally acknowledged that customs administrations play a vital role in the growth of international trade and the development of the global market", he emphasized.

L'atelier est organisé dans le cadre du suivi des recommandations du 3e atelier du Groupe de travail technique sur le renforcement des capacités de l'UA tenu du 16 au 17 juillet 2009 à Lilongwe (Malawi). Ledit atelier a, entre autres, souligné la nécessité d'organiser des séances de sensibilisation à l'intention des parties prenantes sur les programmes d'intégration de la Commission et d'élaborer des cours de formation pour les administrations douanières dans le domaine de l'intégration régionale. Le présent atelier s'est appuyé sur le travail effectué par le 4e atelier du Groupe technique de l'UA sur le renforcement des capacités tenu du 19 au 20 septembre 2011 à Mombasa au Kenya. Cet atelier a identifié certains domaines de l'intégration régionale qui ont été recommandés pour inclusion dans le programme actuellement en cours de l'Institut Africain de Développement Economique et de Planification des Nations Unies (IDEP). Compte tenu de la nature dynamique de l'environnement douanier, il est devenu non seulement nécessaire de poursuivre cette activité, mais également d'adapter les exigences des douanes en matière de renforcement des capacités afin de prendre en compte les évolutions récentes dans le domaine du commerce et de la facilitation des échanges au niveau mondial et continental. Le fait nouveau majeur au niveau continental, a été l'adoption d'une décision (Assembly/AU/Dec.394 [XVIII]) par la Conférence des chefs d'État et de gouvernement de l'Union Africaine lors de la 18ème session ordinaire de leur Conférence. Celle-ci tenue en janvier 2012 à Addis-Abeba en Éthiopie sur l'accélération de la mise en place d'une Zone de Libre-échange Continentale (ZLEC) pour l'année 2017 ainsi que l'approbation de la Feuille de route, du plan d'action et de l'architecture pour l'intensification du Commerce Intra-Africain, constituée de sept thématiques parmi lesquelles figure la facilitation du commerce.

Dans son discours d'ouverture, M. Aly Ibouira Moussa, Chef par intérim de la Division du Commerce et de l'Industrie de la Commission de l'Union Africaine a situé les objectifs et le cadre de l'atelier. Il a rappelé aux participants que les résultats attendus de l'atelier sont un ensemble de recommandations dans les domaines qui nécessitent un renforcement effectif de capacités relatif à l'intégration et à la facilitation du commerce. "La construction de ce vaste marché africain devra s'appuyer sur les communautés économiques régionales dont certaines sont déjà parvenues à des niveaux d'intégration très appréciables, tandis que d'autres ont lancé des initiatives conjointes destinées à bâtir des programmes intercommunautaires. Le cas en particulier de la zone de libre-échange tripartite, COMESA-SADC-CAE en phase de construction est édifiant", a-t-il précisé.

Pour sa part, le commissaire adjoint des douanes de l'Autorité Tanzanienne des Douanes, a salué les efforts de la Commission de l'Union africaine dans la conceptualisation, la facilitation et la coordination de cet atelier. «Nous sommes ravis de vous avoir ici pour

participer et partager avec nous, vos expériences étant donné la nature dynamique de l'environnement du commerce et des douanes afin de mettre à jour les exigences de renforcement des capacités tout en prenant en compte les évolutions récentes dans la facilitation des échanges à l'échelle mondiale", a-t-il dit. Le Commissaire adjoint a également déclaré être optimiste pour ce qui concerne les recommandations allant dans le sens du renforcement des capacités en matière d'intégration régionale et de la mise en œuvre de la Zone de Libre-échange Continental. "Le succès de cet atelier va nous conduire à une administration douanière efficace afin d'influencer de manière significative la croissance économique, car il est universellement admis que les administrations douanières jouent un rôle vital dans la croissance du commerce international et le développement du marché mondial", a-t-il souligné.

The African Union Commission and the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure discuss joint Strategic Plan



The 4th Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) meeting kicked off on 29 September 2014 at the African Union Commission (AUC) headquarters. The one-day meeting was jointly organized by the AUC Departments of Trade and Industry and Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Resource Mobilization and the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure. The meeting's main objective was to discuss and review the Joint AUC – PAQI Strategic Plan based on priority outcomes and outputs of the AUC 2014-2017 Strategic Plan vis-à-vis areas of expertise of the PAQI Pillar Organizations. The outcome would be a Strategic Plan Document that identifies priority areas for the AUC where PAQI can provide requisite policy support over the planning period.

The work of the four PAQI institutions is critical for economic integration in Africa and can play a critical

catalytical role in the establishment and effective implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017 among other issues.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, the PAQI Chairperson pointed out that PAQI is a forum not an institution. "PAQI is a forum for all matters related to standardisation, conformity assessment, metrology and accreditation which all contribute positively to the CFTA", he mentioned. According to him, the final document of the AUC-PAQI strategic plan will be presented to the African Union Commission by the end of the year following the completion and consolidation of internal review processes by AUC Departments.

In her opening statement, the Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Her Excellency, Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl thanked the PAQI for the partnership and encouraged

that AUC works closely with ARSO on their African Trade Portal as the Department of Trade and Industry also has started work on establishing the African Union Trade Observatory as part of the CFTA Architecture. She explained that the meeting is testimony to the common and shared vision for a more integrated Africa that can produce goods and services, feed its own people, generate jobs for its growing young people and maintain healthy populations and safe workplaces. She also recalled one of the outcomes of the meeting. "One key outcome of this meeting is the Joint strategic plan between PAQI organizations and the AUC Departments. This plan will be accompanied by a clear implementation matrix that outlines timely and tangible realistic deliverables and results with dedicated roles and responsibilities amongst our institutions", she said. The Commissioner stated that Quality Infrastructure is cross cutting and hence crucial in the AUC-PAQI joint planning, reporting, monitoring and evaluation processes. "It is my sincere hope that based on their Comparative

Competencies, PAQI institutions will align their work programmes and activities in line with the key AUC sectors which are: Agriculture, infrastructure, transport, energy, environments, natural resources, health, trade and Industry sectors. I am aware that in the proposed implementation matrix, PAQI assigned its activities to some AUC programmes such as BIAT/CFTA, AIDA, CAADP, PIDA and PMPA which are programmes that need great support for the development of Africa", she concluded.

PAQI was officially launched in August 2013 by the AUC Director of Trade and Industry, Mrs. Treasure Thembisile Maphanga following the signing of a PAQI MoU by ARSO, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, and AFRAC with the support of the AUC. PAQI pillars are already recognized for international good practices by the relevant international organizations in their respective fields of operation.



African Union Commission consults African Geological Experts on the implementation of the African Minerals Geoscience Initiative (AMGI)

The African Minerals Geoscience Initiative (AMGI) consultative meeting kicked off on 27 October 2014 at the African Union Commission headquarters. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission with the support of the World Bank Group, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Minerals Development Center (UNECA/AMDC), the two-day meeting will ensure that AMGI responds to the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) specifically under Programme Cluster 2 of the Implementation Action Plan of the AMV. This Cluster of the AMV Implementation Action Plan "Building a Sustainable Future for Africa's Extractive Industry:

From Vision to Action", focuses on improving the geological; and Mineral information systems.

The main goal of the project is to develop a comprehensive knowledge of Africa's mineral endowment and the expected result is to develop and obtain improved geological and mineral information systems to underpin investment in exploration and mining development. Participants include AU Member States at senior officials level namely experts responsible for geological information systems at the national level, selected Geological Survey Organisation (GSO) representatives, officials from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and other experts.

The African Minerals Geoscience Initiative (AMGI) also

called the "Billion Dollar Map", is a pan-African initiative under the leadership of the African Union Commission for the collection, consolidation, interpretation and effective dissemination of national and regional geodata through a geo-portal, thereby increasing accurate and updated geo-scientific data available in public domain. It aims to bring 380 million dollars worth of investment into the organisation and interpretation of geological information from Africa. This would be done with the ultimate goal of seeking to facilitate broad-based governance changes in the mineral and other downstream and side-stream sectors, including: (i) improved licensing processes and procedures that efficiently leverage the natural resource wealth of countries; (ii) improved spatial planning, infrastructure development, forest and wildlife conservation through the use of regional resource corridors; and (iii) sustainable development policies for natural resources management.

In his opening statement, the Acting UNECA/AMDC Coordinator, Dr. Kojo Busia, recalled that the Africa Mining Vision was adopted by African Heads of State and Government in 2009 and a critical constraint identified is that "Most African states lack basic geological mapping or, at best, are poorly mapped." He pointed out that the Action Plan for Implementing the AMV specifically addresses geology and mining information systems including the need for strengthening geological survey capacities and undertaking cross border and regional mapping initiatives. "Recently the African Minerals Development Centre with over 30 leading minerals and development experts from across Africa and beyond, prepared the Country Mining Visions

Guidance document that sets out how Member States can domesticate the AMV through a participatory and consultative Country Mining Vision process. Again geology and mineral information systems feature prominently", he emphasized. "AMGI is stated as being a part of the AMV. However, the AMV is not a smorgasbord where data can be treated separately from other minerals and development issues. As such, the context in which AMGI addresses geological data needs to be considered", he mentioned.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Hussein Hassan, Head of Industry Division and Acting Director for the Department of Trade and Industry recalled the objective of the meeting and underscored the need for African Union Member States to consider geological data, including for example, governance, policy, licensing, revenue, upstream and downstream linkages, planning and development. "Ideally, AMGI would engage countries that have produced, or are committed to producing, Country Mining Visions (CMVs) to ensure that the greatest possible development benefits are realised from the data collected and disseminated as part of AMGI", he stressed. He finally thanked the participants wishing them fruitful deliberations.

The outcomes of the meeting will be tabled at the upcoming 1st Extra-Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development (CAMRMRD), scheduled on 22 – 26 November 2014 in Livingston and Victoria falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The Commissioner for Trade and Industry meets with Parliamentary State Secretary of Germany

Commissioner for Trade and Industry, H.E. Fatima Haram Acyl met with Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, German Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and his delegation on 2nd

September, 2014 at the African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters. The Commissioner was accompanied by the Director, Mrs. Treasure Maphanga and other colleagues from the Department.

Mr. Silberhorn announced that the main objective of his visit was to exchange views on potential areas of cooperation between Germany and Africa in preparation for the G7 Summit scheduled for June 2015 and for which, Germany has officially assumed the Presidency. Of interest to Germany were Africa's needs as well as projects that could be jointly implemented in a broad range of areas including Agriculture and Rural Development, Infrastructure, Human Resources Science and Technology with as well as Africa's Industrial Development, Regional Integration inter alia.

Commissioner Acyl appreciated Germany's leadership of the G7 process especially their consultations with the African Union Commission in preparation for the Summit. She briefed the German delegation the AU Agenda 2063 as the context for Africa's development priorities which will lead to the transformation of Africa to a peaceful, prosperous and integrated continent through the attainment of concrete milestones and targets. Mr. Silberhorn further proposed engagement with the African Union on a number of issues of common interest such as engagement on foreign direct investment as well as extractive industries where Germany has the necessary know-how, particularly with newly G7 launched CONNEX initiative which aims to provide developing countries with "extended and concrete expertise for negotiating complex commercial contracts." The initial focus of the initiative will be on the extractives sector.

The AUC side seized the opportunity to put the activities of the Department in the context of Agenda 2063. Regional integration, boosting intra-African

ACTIVITIES

trade, the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) and the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) were touched

development and vocational training, tax laws. With regard to sharing of experiences, Africa could boast of some African initiatives in governance such as



upon. Areas of possible cooperation were identified, among others, upgrading of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), harmonization of standards through support to the Pan African Quality Initiative within the context of boosting intra-African Trade and fast tracking the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area framework, industrialization, agri-business, agro- industry, pharmaceuticals, skills

the Kimberley process and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Discussions also revolved around the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and the need for Africa to integrate its markets in order to attract investors. In conclusion, it was decided that the dialogue will continue with the German Embassy in Addis Ababa.

The African Union Commission signs Joint Programming Arrangement with Development Partners



The African Union Commission (AUC) signed on 9 December 2014, a Joint Programming Arrangement (JPA) to support the AUC Trade and Industry Program led by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) under Pillar III "Integration, Cooperation and Partnerships" with Development Partners in Addis Ababa.

Four African Union partners: United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK) and Sweden signed this arrangement in order to enhance coordination among partners supporting the AUC in the areas of trade, industry and customs. The overall goal of this JPA is to provide a framework for coordinated dialogue and

the USAID Representative to the African Union, Mr. Glenn Rogers, pointed out that the Joint Programming Arrangement is a milestone in building an inclusive partnership to achieve the envisioned results of the AUC 2014-2017 Strategy in areas related to trade. He mentioned that as the AUC and Partners seek to apply the common principles articulated in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, the Partners commit themselves to coordinate and harmonize their support for the Department of Trade and Industry's Programmes.

The Commissioner for the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, H.E. Fatima Haram Acyl, in her statement, thanked the Partners for



support for AUC priorities related to development of trade and customs facilitation policies; supporting the Continental Free Trade Area ("CFTA") negotiations; and enhancement of productive capacities on the Continent as defined in the AUC Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

Speaking on the occasion on behalf of the Partners,

their commitment to the success of the DTI's programmes and confirmed AUC's engagement towards increasing the effectiveness of development support and building mutual accountability and transparency for all involved in the JPA mechanism.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

African Union Commission (AUC) / Department of Trade and Industry / P.O. Box 3243 / Old Airport – Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

Tel: +251 – 11 518 29 58

Website: <http://ti.au.int> /Email

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AUTradeIndustry>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/AUTradeIndustry>

TIC TALK NEWSLETTER/PRODUCTION TEAM:

Publishing Director

Mrs. Treasure Thembisile Maphanga
Director for the Department of Trade & Industry

Created, compiled and edited by

Patient Atcho & Meaza Tezera
Trade-Related Communications Assistants