

SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS OF TRADE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ACCRA-GHANA FROM 29TH NOVEMBER 2011 TO 3RD DECEMBER, 2011- INFO SHEET

The Minister of Trade and Industry of the Government of Ghana (GoG) is pleased to welcome you to the Seventh Ordinary Session of African Union Ministers of Trade Conference. Important information regarding the Meeting and other arrangements is outlined in this document.

WHERE

ACCRA, GHANA

Accra International Conference Centre (AICC)

WHEN

- ❖ Senior Officials meeting: 29th November 2011 – 1st December 2011
- ❖ The Ministerial Conference: 2nd – 3rd December 2011

WHO

The AU Ministers of Trade Conference will be attended by approximately 350 senior level delegates, including:

- ✓ Ministers of Trade of African Union
- ✓ High-level Officials of Multilateral Institutions, Inter-governmental Organizations, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organizations, etc
- ✓ Media (local and international)



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

WHAT

The AU Ministers of Trade Conference is a high-level decision making conference for dialogue between African Ministers of Trade, Multilateral institutions, Inter-governmental Organizations, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations among others. The main items on the agenda of the Senior Officials Meeting for the consideration of the African Union Ministers of Trade Conference are as follows:

- ✚ **Intra-African trade:** Boosting Intra-African Trade/Fast tracking the Continental Free Area
- ✚ **Review of Multilateral Trade Negotiations**
- ✚ **State of play in the EPA negotiations and the way forward**
- ✚ **Report on the 3rd Global Review on Aid for Trade**
- ✚ **Presentation of a Proposal for Improved and Enhanced Trade Preferences System for LDCs and LICs**
- ✚ **Report on the 10th AGOA Forum**

- information can be found online at <http://www.africa-union.org>

CONFERENCE ACCREDITATION

- Conference accreditation will be done for all delegates at the Accra International Conference Centre during the Conference period.

- ***VISA REQUIREMENTS***

A welcome desk is provided at the arrival hall of the Kotoka International Airport to assist delegates with immigration procedures upon arrival in Accra. Visa on arrival services will be available for all delegates. Delegates from ECOWAS Member states do not require visas to enter Ghana. Ministers of State will be handled by the State Protocol Department and accorded VIP services.

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- In addition to a visa, all international visitors may be required to present an International Health Certificate showing proof of a yellow fever vaccination.

AIRPORT HOTEL TRANSFERS

- (a) Transportation of delegates

The Government of the Republic of Ghana will provide local transport and protocol facilities. Transport will be available from the airport to the hotels. Shuttle services will be provided between the hotels and the conference venue. In order to save time and facilitate easy and convenient movement of delegates between hotels and the conference venue, transport will be arranged at fixed intervals.

- (b) For the Ministers and Heads of Delegations: One car per Member State will be provided

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

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- The Government of Ghana requests that you send all travel information relating to flights and schedules to: mickson43us@yahoo.com, oseibp@yahoo.com or keq99@yahoo.com.
- +233-244-984055, 0244-570096

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BUSINESS FACILITIES AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE

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- Wireless internet is provided for Kigali Serena Hotel Guests.

INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the sessions of the Meeting in English, Portuguese, Arabic and French.

ACCOMMODATION

The list and addresses of the main hotels which will be accommodating delegates is provided in the attached.

Delegates will be responsible for the settlement of their hotel bills including meals, beverages, telephones calls (local and international) and laundry.

MEALS INFORMATION

Coffee breaks are offered at the Conference venue during Meeting times, and are provided as part of the Meeting programme. The Minister of Trade and Industry will host a cocktail to AU Ministers of Trade and other dignitaries on 3rd December, 2011 at the Conference venue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECURITY:

Ministers will be provided with personal escorts for the duration of the conference. Conference area can be accessed with your accreditation.

HEALTH AND SECURITY

The Government of Ghana has an on-site medical team for the entire conference period. Yellow cards may be carried by delegates as Airport health Authorities may require it upon arrival.

LANGUAGE

English is the Official language of Ghana.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The local currency is the Ghana Cedis (GHC) - (1US\$= GHC1.5)

Please note that there are visa ATMs in Accra and several licensed foreign exchange bureaus and international banks.

ELECTRICITY

The electricity current in Rwanda is 220 volts AC, 50 Hz.

TIME

Ghana is in the GMT +0

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

For confirmations and general enquiries in advance of the Meeting, please contact:

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- During the conference itself, the information desk in the foyer of the conference centre will be staffed throughout.

Please note that Transport will be provided to delegates and other invited guests from International Airport to the hotels attached.