



Annexure 1

African Regional Responses - Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Free movement of Persons in Africa.

(2020-2021)

REGIONS	Key Sector of intervention	Measures taken to manage Impact of Covid-19 on Free Movement of Persons, goods & services	Tangible actions taken/Recommendations
1. East African Community (EAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of goods, trucks, and cargo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated approach; • Protection of employment; • Lifting the locking down partially within countries; • Public Health Education on COVID-19; • Partially resuming passenger flights; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping a coordinated approach; • Each Member State to phase out progressively.
1b) EAC Business Council (Private Sector Association)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All presidential addresses validated a regional coordinated approach on COVID-19; • All Governments of the EAC Partner States facilitated the free movement of goods and services in the region and collaborated with private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAC partner States to hold bilateral meetings to unlock barriers to free movement of cargo across the EAC region; • Ministries of EAC Affairs to take the lead with the Ministries of Trade, Transport, Health including other line ministries and trade facilitation agencies in a bid to ensure measures on COVID-19, do not cause unnecessary cost and time burden to the free movement of goods and services in the EAC region; • No discrimination or fear or stigma to essential service providers but treat them with respect and understanding; • Mask among other Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to be given to truck drivers; • EABC procured thermoguns and masks for truck drivers to support the free movement of cargo within the region; • EABC facilitated dialogue on regional issues, particularly at the border points;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Transport Associations coordinated by the Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Association (FEAFA) worked closely with EABC to enhance information sharing in a bid to facilitate the free movement of cargo across EAC borders;
2. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross border movement of relief and essential supplies; Cross border road passenger transport; Transport of goods and cross border freight transport operations; Trade in services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of guidelines for the movement of goods and services across COMESA region during the covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and Evaluation and sharing of best practices; Transparent information sharing among Member States.
3. ECOWAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passenger transport by land, air and sea; Cross border mobility of persons; Health essentials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures taken were to facilitate the supply of medical equipment, essential goods and personnel in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic among ECOWAS Member States; Facilitate the coordinated implementation of transport related national COVID-19 measures in cross border transportation; Ensure the harmonization of operational guidelines for the re- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with media, civil society, sharing of information promptly and doing advocacy on measures taken (very progressive and inclusive process of all stakeholders).

		opening of Air, Land and Sea borders in line with international industry best practices with regards to restoring user confidence while preventing the spread of COVID-19 across borders.	
4. Southern African Development Community (SADC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of goods, trucks, and cargo, persons in Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated SADC approach to managing movement of goods and persons; • Protection of employment; • Lifting the locking down partially within countries; • Public Health Education on COVID-19; • Partially resuming passenger flights; • CBC & SADC BC developed a joint common SADC position in managing regional trade and movement of goods and services • Countries provided allowance for a grace period where permissible before implementing restriction regulations to ensure readiness by the private sector. • Measures to address border delays: Increased customs coordination and interfaces to ensure swifter processing of goods and services at the border to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries lifted bans in movement of goods for trade • On publication and increasing awareness of regulations on movement of persons services and goods; • Member States jointly published all regulatory measures pertaining to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. • Countries developed Tripartite/Corridor/joint border management working guidelines to ensure clearance of goods within specified and reduced timelines on each border to encourage compliance.

		reduce clearance times.	
5. ERAB MAGHREB UNION (UMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port clearances and increasing port efficiency management: Port countries facilitated the speedier clearance of goods to facilitate trade. • Slow movement of persons due to presentative measures in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifting the locking down partially within countries; • Public Health Education on COVID-19; • Partially resuming passenger flights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries developed Post COVID-19 priority economic sectors to manage movement of persons, services and goods. • Region developed jointly post COVID-19 period to aid quick economic recovery and job creation Agriculture, Tourism, Manufacturing, Transport & Mining. • Health Industry to produced & imported enough health preventative measures & products for the region to facilitate movement of persons in the region.
6. Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of goods, trucks, and cargo and persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed instant border enquiry points to facilitate movement of persons and goods. • Improved reporting and monitoring mechanism of movement of persons and goods to address is recording some challenges being faced by the business during this time, the process of monitoring and resolution usually takes time, in fact can take months or years. • To accelerate speedier resolution of barriers, all countries are urged to put in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States jointly published all regulatory measures pertaining to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. • Countries developed Tripartite/Corridor/joint border management working guidelines to ensure clearance of goods within specified and reduced timelines on each border to encourage compliance.

		place instant border enquiry points (contact point, emails, telephone) for business to easily get information on measures and to address impediments being faced.	
7. Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of persons, goods, trucks, and cargo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifting the locking down partially within countries; • Public Health Education on COVID-19; • Partially resuming passenger flights • Measures to address border delays: Increased customs coordination and interfaces to ensure swifter processing of goods and services at the border to reduce clearance times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States jointly published all regulatory measures pertaining to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. • Joint Free Movement of Persons in Africa Implementation Roadmap developed, including joint policies to address impact of Covid-19 on people, services and goods.
8. Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of persons and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated regional approach to managing movement of persons and services; • Protection of employment; • Lifting the locking down partially within countries; • Public Health Education on COVID-19; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States jointly published all regulatory measures pertaining to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. • Countries developed Tripartite/Corridor/joint border management working guidelines to ensure clearance of goods within specified and reduced timelines on each border to encourage compliance