



WCP Virtual International Conference on International Trade and Investment (ICITI2022)

Special Theme:

'AfCFTA: Challenges and Opportunities'

7–8 September 2022

Organised by the African WTO Chairs Programmes (WCP) @ The University of Mauritius (Mauritius), North-West University (South Africa), University of Tunis (Tunisia), University of Nairobi (Kenya), Université d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin), Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal), University of Rwanda (Rwanda); Cairo University (Egypt), National University of Lesotho (Lesotho), University of Yaounde 2 (Cameroon), Université Mohammed V Rabat (Morocco) and Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia).

PROGRAMME

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

OPENING CEREMONY AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 11:00–13:00 (GMT+4)		Zoom Link: Register here
*11:00–11:02	Opening and Welcoming Remarks by WCP Organising Team	
11:02–11:06	Address by Dr Werner Zdouc (WCP Team, WTO)	
11:06–11:10	Address by Prof S K Sobhee (Ag Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius)	
11:10–11:15	Address by Dr Francis Mangeni (AfCFTA Secretariat)	
11:15–11:20	Address by Ambassador H E Mr Xiangchen Zhang (Deputy Director-General, WTO)	
11:20–11:30	Address by Ambassador Mr Etienne Oudot de Dainville (Permanent Representative of France to the WTO)	
11:30–11:40	Address by The Honourable Mr Alan Ganoo (Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius)	
11:40–12:00	Keynote Address: Dr Stephen Karingi (Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, UNECA)	
12:00–12:55	PANEL DISCUSSION: The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Challenges and Opportunities Panelists: Melaku G Desta (African Trade Policy Centre/ATPC), Ms Lily Sommer (International Trade Centre), Dr Francis Mangeni (AfCFTA Secretariat) & Dr Stephen Karingi (UNECA) Moderator: Paul Baker (International Economics Consulting Ltd)	

*The time specified is the local time/ Mauritian time. Please check your respective time zone. It is currently GMT+4

PARALLEL SESSIONS I: 13:00–15:00 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 1 THEME:</p> <p><i>Prospects, Challenges and Opportunities of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement I</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof Boopen Seetanah</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>Economic Practicability, Implications and Prospects of the AfCFTA: The Case of Kenya</p> <p><i>Peter Mwiathi (Kenyatta University)</i></p>
	2.	<p>Benin in Global Value Chains (GVCs): Opportunities and Challenges in the Context of AfCFTA Implementation</p> <p><i>Charlemagne Igué, Alastaire Alinsato & Laurent Oloukoi (Chaire OMC–CIDI)</i></p>
	3.	<p>Export Development and Diversification Opportunities in the AfCFTA: The Case of South Africa</p> <p><i>Wilma Viviers, Lorainne Ferreira & Martin Cameron (North-West University, South Africa)</i></p>
	4.	<p>Economic Integration and Food Security: The Case of the AfCFTA</p> <p><i>Antti Simola, Ole Boysen, Emanuele Ferrari & Victor Nechifor (European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Seville, Spain) & Pierre Boulanger (CGIAR, Rome, Italy)</i></p>
	5.	<p>Aligning Climate and Economic Governance in Africa</p> <p><i>Kennedy Mbeva & Thomas Hale (Blavatnik School of Government, St. Antony's College, Oxford University)</i></p>
<p>TRACK 2 THEME:</p> <p><i>AfCFTA Impact</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof Caiphaz Chekwoti</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>The AfCFTA and the Transfer of Knowledge, Technology and Innovation</p> <p><i>Rafia Akram & Thabelo Muleya (Tutwa Consulting)</i></p>
	2.	<p>The Impact of the AfCFTA Agreement on Trade in Services: Perceptions of a Regional Financial Service Provider Headquartered in Mauritius</p> <p><i>Ambareen Beebeejaun, Krishnee Adnarain Appadoo, Rajendra Parsad Gunputh & T. Sookna (University of Mauritius)</i></p>
	3.	<p>How the AfCFTA Impacts Firms' Export Survival: Some Lessons from Kenya</p> <p><i>Socrates Kraidon Majune (University of Nairobi/World Trade Organization), Kemal Türkcan (Akdeniz University) & Eliud Moyi (Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis)</i></p>
	4.	<p>The Impacts of the AfCFTA on the Kenyan Economy</p> <p><i>Victor Nechifor, Ole Boysen, Emanuele Ferrari & Antti Simola (European Commission Joint Research Centre, Seville, Spain) and Martin Nandelenga, Joshua Laichena & Kenneth Malot (Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Nairobi, Kenya)</i></p>
	5.	<p>Greening the AfCFTA: It is Not Too Late?</p> <p><i>Colette van der Ven and Landry Signé (Tulip Consulting; Distinguished Fellow, Stanford University)</i></p>

PARALLEL SESSIONS II: 15:10–17:10 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 1 THEME: <i>Prospects, Challenges and Opportunities of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement II</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof Chahir Zaki</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>Sustainable Agricultural Commodity Chains in the AfCFTA: Sustainability Standards Suffice?</p> <p><i>Alice Karuri</i> (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Strathmore)</p>
	2.	<p>The Opportunities and Challenges of the AfCFTA: Implications for SMEs</p> <p><i>Sheereen Fauzel, Jeevita Matadeen & Boopen Seetanah</i> (University of Mauritius)</p>
	3.	<p>Expanding Digital Trade in the AfCFTA Context</p> <p><i>Manfred Kouty</i> (Institute of Cameroon/IRIC; University of Yaounde 2)</p>
	4.	<p>Deficiencies in Road Infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa: Stumbling Blocks for the AfCFTA</p> <p><i>Amit Malhotra & Jerush John Joseph</i> (School of Commerce, Finance and Accountancy, CHRIST University)</p>
	5.	<p>The Dual Effects of COVID-19 on Africa's Integration Process in View of the AfCFTA</p> <p><i>Pasara Michael</i> (TRADE research entity, North-West University)</p>
<p>TRACK 2 THEME: <i>Regional Blocs and the AfCFTA</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof B Rama Rao</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>Implications of the AfCFTA Agreement for Export Promotion and Welfare Improvement among the Member Countries of the East African Community</p> <p><i>Aristide Maniriho, Daniel Twesige & Bokka Rama Rao</i> (School of Economics, College of Business and Economics, University of Rwanda)</p>
	2.	<p>Trade in Services in Imbalanced Regional Markets: Lessons from SADC for the AfCFTA</p> <p><i>Danae Govender, Kane Jules & Christopher Woods</i> (Tutwa Consulting)</p>
	3.	<p>The Role of Trade Facilitation in Implementing the AfCFTA: Drawing Lessons from COMESA</p> <p><i>Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu</i> (University of Zululand, South Africa)</p>
	4.	<p>Institutional and Transactional Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons: The AfCFTA and FTAs</p> <p><i>Val Okaru-Bisant</i> (CEO, Founder and General Counsel, Afro Cosmo Development Impact/ACDI, LLC, Maryland, USA)</p>

DAY 2

THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

PARALLEL SESSIONS III - 11:00–13:00 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 1 THEME: <i>AfCFTA Implementation I</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof Wilma Viviers</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>Digitalisation and the AfCFTA <i>Bineswaree Bolaky</i> (UNECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa)</p>
	2.	<p>The Challenges and Opportunities of Central Bank Digital Currencies <i>Uchenna Anyamele</i> (Hakakire Legal Consulting Services)</p>
	3.	<p>Analytical Study of the Mauritian Freeport in the Value Chain <i>Nirmal Betchoo</i> (Universite des Mascareignes, Mauritius)</p>
	4.	<p>Prerequisites for the Efficient Implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement: An Integrated Analysis <i>Reda El Fellah</i> (Ibn Zohr University, Agadir, Morocco)</p>
<p>TRACK 2 THEME: <i>Legal Architecture of the AfCFTA</i></p> <p>Chair: Mrs Varsha Mooneeram Chadee</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>Thinking Strategically about the Interface between Intellectual Property and Investment Law under the AfCFTA <i>Emmanuel Kolawole Oke</i> (Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh) & <i>Olufunmilola Olabode</i> (Olabisi Onabanjo University)</p>
	2.	<p>Architectural Development in Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) to Regulate the Creation, Use and Exploitation of Mental or Creative Labour in the AfCFTA <i>Rajendra Parsad Gunpath & Ambareen Beebeejaun</i> (University of Mauritius)</p>
	3.	<p>The AfCFTA: The Legal Catalyst for the Intensification of Maritime Trade in Africa <i>Marie Valerie Uppiah</i> (University of Mauritius)</p>
	4.	<p>What are the Dispute Settlement Methods in the AfCFTA? <i>Azzedine Ghoufrane & Sabrine Darbali</i> (Université Mohammed V de Rabat, Morocco)</p>
	5.	<p>E-commerce in the AfCFTA Agreement: What Can Be Expected from the Protocol on Digital Trade? <i>Varsha Mooneeram Chadee, Verena Tandrayen Ragoobur & Boopen Seetannah</i> (University of Mauritius)</p>

PARALLEL SESSIONS IV: 13:10–15:10 (GMT+4)

<p>TRACK 1 THEME: <i>AfCFTA Implementation II</i></p> <p>Chair: Mrs Varsha Mooneeram Chadee</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>The Impact of the War between Russia and Ukraine on the AfCFTA <i>Katarzyna Czerewacz-Filipowicz</i> (Institute of Management and Quality Science, Bialystok University of Technology)</p>
	2.	<p>Towards Actualising the AfCFTA: A Critical Examination of the Policy Issues and Negotiation Options <i>Mumo Nzau & Edmond Pamba</i> (University of Nairobi and Mount Kenya University)</p>
	3.	<p>The Impact of Media on AfCFTA Implementation and Effectiveness: A Case Study of BBC News Concerning the AfCFTA <i>Anne Maureen Syallow</i> (Strathmore University, Kenya)</p>
	4.	<p>La Politique Publique du Maroc en Matière de Commerce International et l'Adhésion à l'Accord sur la Facilitation des Echanges <i>Ghoufrane Azzedine & El Mehdi Jabbara</i> (Université Mohammed V de Rabat)</p>
<p>TRACK 2 THEME: <i>The AfCFTA and Women</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof Tabitha K Nganga</p> <p>Zoom Link: Register here</p>	1.	<p>Challenges Facing Kenyan Women and Youth Traders in Terms of Access to Education and Skills and How They Can Benefit from the AfCFTA <i>Tabitha W. Kiriti-Nganga</i> (University of Nairobi)</p>
	2.	<p>Can the AfCFTA Unlock the Potential of African Women? An In-depth Analysis <i>Verena Tandrayen Ragoobur & Patrice Ongono</i> (University of Mauritius and University of Yaounde 2)</p>
	3.	<p>The Nexus between Female-owned Enterprises' Sustainability and Export Propensity <i>Crescensia Chifamb & Helper Zhou</i> (Tutwa Consulting and Durban University of Technology)</p>
		VOTE OF THANKS

Conference Co-Chairs:

Prof B Seetanah, Dr V Tandrayen Ragoobur, Mrs V Mooneeram Chadee (WCP, Mauritius) and Prof W Wiviers (WCP, South Africa)