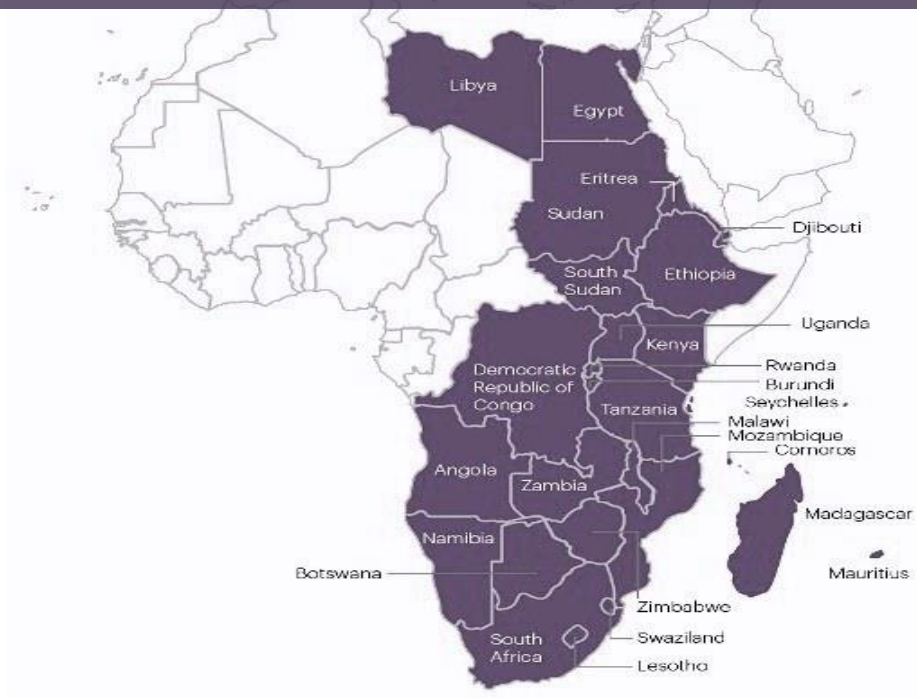


INTEGRATING THE VOICE OF CSOs IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS- EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (IVORI-ESA)



VALIDATION WORKSHOP

October 28, 2015 in Lusaka

November 05, 2015 in Nairobi

November 26, 2015 in Addis

BACKGROUND



Integrating the Voice of CSOs in Regional Integration Process- Eastern and Southern Africa (IVORI-ESA): *Giving Voice to the Voiceless in the TFTA Arrangement*

The Heads of State signed a historic agreement on June 10, 2015 to officially launch the Tripartite Free Trade Area that brings 26 African countries from Cairo to Cape under one market. While, the Grand initiative is noble and in line with the Abuja Treaty that envisages for one African Economic Community, the integration process has not been found to incorporate the voices of the marginalised as represented by civil society organisations and other non-state actors. African regional economic communities are, most often than not, perceived as elitist and government-to-government cooperation, partly because of lack of participation from citizens of Member States. It is time to push for *change in approach* where integration processes are owned by people through which the process intends to integrate; and an approach that has a *pro-poor outlook*, which allows development of a network of CSOs whose experiences are incorporated to reflect the views of the voiceless.

It is in this context that CUTS Nairobi has undertaken 'Integrating the Voice of CSOs in Regional Integration Process in Eastern and Southern Africa' (IVORI-ESA) Project with funding support from Oxfam Novib. A forward-looking '*Engagement Framework and Action Agenda*' has been designed based on best experiences from elsewhere; as well as views gathered from the three Regional Economic Community (RECs) Secretaries and inputs from CSOs in Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia.

Against this background, CUTS Nairobi will hold a validation workshop to present country study findings and the draft *Engagement Framework* for the purpose of gathering inputs from stakeholders of regional integration, including civil societies, private sector, women border traders and representatives of consumer groups and the youth.

Event details

Date: Nov 05, 2015
Time: 07:00 0900 hours
Place: Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi

Contact

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Useful links

Project Website
<http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/IVORY-ESA>
More about CUTS-Nairobi
www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi

