



# Tradequity

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## African Experts Consider Ways to Speed up CFTA Negotiations

Experts from the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and African Regional Economic Communities met at the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Continental Task Force (CTF) on the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) to discuss potential strategies for fast-tracking the establishment of the CFTA.

The meeting considered various draft provisions of the CFTA Agreement that will be submitted following the meeting of the various technical working groups on the CFTA, which was held from April 24 to May 06 2017, and subsequently to the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CFTA Negotiating Forum was held on June 05-10, 2017 in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

African negotiators gathering at 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CFTA-Negotiating Forum (NF) at the beginning of March 2017 welcomed the CFTA Template Agreement presented by the AUC as a basis for text-based negotiations. Reports of various technical working groups were also discussed, namely on rules of origin, technical barriers to trade and non-tariff barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade in services and customs procedures.

"A bottom-up approach was agreed for further technical work on the draft text through technical working groups, which will report to the coming meeting of the Negotiating Forum also in Addis Ababa in June 2017", indicates UNECA in a press release issued after this 5<sup>th</sup> round of talks.

In general terms, CFTA negotiators agreed at the 5<sup>th</sup> CFTA-NF to liberalise between 85 and 95 percent of their tariff lines over a five to 10-year period, while also providing for flexibilities through exclusions and lists of sensitive products to accommodate concerns regarding the potential challenges related to liberalisation.

Negotiators were, however, unable to finalise the draft modalities for negotiations on trade in goods and trade in services as originally planned.

Speaking on behalf of Treasure Maphanga, AUC's Director of Trade and Industry, at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CTF, the Chief Technical Advisor on the CFTA, Prudence Sebahizi deplored the fact that the works on modalities for both trade tariff liberalisation and trade in services negotiations remain so far uncompleted.

If successfully negotiated and implemented, the CFTA will constitute the world's largest Free Trade Area (FTA) in terms of number of participants, encompassing 54 African countries, which account for a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$3.4tn and with a total population of more than 1 billion people.

The launch of the negotiations towards the establishment of the CFTA was announced in June 2015, with the goal of having the FTA in place by the end of 2017 "Remember that we have made promises, during our last meeting in Nairobi, that conclusion of the CFTA by end of 2017 is technically possible. Indeed, it is possible! We therefore should do all that we can do and place the ball in the court of the



Member States", said Prudence Sebahizi to African experts in opening the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CTF.

He called on the task force to work 'as a team' with a view to ensuring that this ambitious deadline is met, while also underlining the important contribution that Regional Economic Communities (RECs) can make in facilitating and supporting the negotiation process. "I appeal to the RECs to spur the necessary consultation, and where appropriate, the technical work at the Member State level in order to have as informed decision making at the Technical Working Group and CFTA-NF levels as possible as the text of the agreement develops", said Sebahizi.

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*This has been adapted from Bridges Africa published on March 31, 2017*

### Cross-Border Money Transfer

The number of people doing cross-border transfers is progressively growing due to a number of factors including the political will to integrate the region and the role of telecoms.

Telecommunications firms are playing a bigger role in facilitating cross-border transfers, thus revolutionising cross-border trade and other activities and significantly contributing to the entire economy.

The mobile money has attracted attention of telecoms who are taking advantage of the highest technology demands, and creating more affordable services and products in the economy. Cross-border mobile money business got a boost following growing cross-border money transactions by traders, students and families in the region.

(NT, 14.06.17)

### High Copper Production

For the past three years, Zambia's copper output has been disrupted by a dispute over power prices. Mine operators, which consume more than half the country's electricity, have been locked in battle with the government over a tariff increase. But as negotiations reach their end, there can be higher copper output in the country.

The Minister of Mines Christopher Yaluma said that there has been a lot of investment in new shafts by underground mines, these projects will change the face of mining when they become fully operational.

(IN, 06.06.17)

### Agriculture for Inclusive Growth

African governments have been urged to step up efforts to accelerate the continent's path to prosperity, inclusive growth and decent jobs-creation by moving from commitments to action.

Agnes Kalibata, the President of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), said agriculture is at the top of Africa's development agenda as an economic driver for inclusive and sustainable development.

She said governments on the continent, private sector actors, donors and development partners need to work together to improve the agriculture sector, noting that it is the 'surest path to Africa's prosperity'.

(NT, 19.04.17)

### Decision on IMF Deal

July 2017 will be a crucial moment for Ghana because the government has to make the final call on whether it will extend its three-year Extended Credit Facility with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The decision will depend on how well government has managed the economy in the first six months of the year.

It will represent a credibility test for the government as far as key macro-economic indicators are concerned. Some of these are provisional outturns on debt levels, the gap between revenues and expenditures, measured by fiscal deficit, import cover, inflation and the performance of the cedi against its peers.

(GO, 20.06.17)

### Yearly Loss over N200bn

Unfavourable Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASAs) that allow foreign airlines access into the local market is costing the Nigerian economy and her ailing aviation sub-sector billions of Nigeria Naira yearly.

The loss, in excess of over N200bn, follows the perennial inability of the nation's flag carriers to reciprocate and compete with their international partners on the BASA routes.

Consequently, the local air travel market, second largest in Africa, keeps losing while its foreign counterparts and their home countries are the better for it. The imbalance is even worse off in the deals between Nigeria and her neighbours.

(TG, 01.05.17)

### Planting for Food and Jobs

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo launched government's flagship agricultural programme, 'Planting for Food and Jobs' at Goaso in the Asunafo Municipality in the Brong Ahafo Region.

Modelled on the highly successful 'Operation Feed Yourself (OFY)' programme of the 1970s, the initiative is to be driven by 200,000 farmers selected nationwide and individuals willing to cultivate vegetables and other crops in their backyard.

The programme aims at increasing agricultural productivity and ensures sustainable supply of food at cheaper cost while creating about 750,000 jobs for the youth.

(DG, 19.04.17)

## Seed Regulatory Framework

There is need to expedite seed regulation harmonisation programme in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region to help increase access to quality and improved seeds by farmers and boost production and household incomes and ensure the bloc is food secure.

At COMESA, lack of quality seed contributes significantly to food insecurity and nutrition deficiency in the region as only a handful of countries are food secure. Access to quality seed and animal breeds by smallholder farmers in the COMESA region is at only 20 percent, as most of the seed is imported from outside the region.

(NT, 18.04.17)





### Urge to Protect Potato Growers

A Local commercial farmer has called on the Government to protect potato growers from cheap imports from South Africa. Stuart Cooke, who is Managing Director of Chartonel Farms in Lusaka, Zambia said a lot of cheap potatoes are allowed onto the Zambian market from South Africa, which is a disadvantage to the local farmers.

"Cheap imports are really affecting us. Our new crop is just coming in, but they have flooded the market with cheap imports from South Africa. Zambia is being used as a dumping ground for South African produce", Cooke said.

(DM, 21.06.17)

### UNCTAD Commends Ghana

UNCTAD has commended Ghana for its progress in trade facilitation. According to the UNCTAD, Ghana's experience as a trailblazer in trade facilitation could serve as a model for the region.

UNCTAD Secretary General, Dr Mukhisa Kituyi stated this during the Ghana National Conference on the Single Window and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement in Accra, Ghana.

Dr Kituyi said the implementation of trade facilitation reforms, including areas like the single window enabled strengthening regional integration in Africa and essential for the continent's efforts to boost intra-African trade. (DG, 22.05.17)

### Getting Rid of Cheap Imports

Kenya has set up an independent agency to rid its market of cheap imports after Parliament agreed on the legal framework. The Kenya Trade Remedies Agency (KTRA), will monitor dumping of subsidised goods in the country. Local manufacturers have cited dumping of cheap imports into the market as major reason for their slow growth.

This comes as Kenya continues to lobby East African Community (EAC) neighbours to ratify the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), expected to open Kenyan market to a range of European Union (EU) products, handing the KTRA special task of locking out the subsidised items. (DN, 14.05.17)

## Roadblocks for Women Traders

Women traders are experiencing customs delays and roadblocks that hinder export of goods across regional borders.. A new study on non-tariff barriers facing Ugandan women trading in East Africa found that open borders as proposed in the Customs Union and Common Market protocols have not been realised.



Among the challenges traders face include being blocked from crossing with their goods, unless they pay clearing agents. These challenges result in countries missing out on foreign exchange, and the region's intra-EAC trade investments going to waste when these traders give up. (TEA, 10.04.17)

### COMESA Calls for CFTA

The COMESA has urged the American business community to support the push for the CFTA in order to benefit from increased intra-regional trade from Africa.

In 2012, African Union (AU) leaders endorsed a plan to set up CFTA by 2017, which will be a key component of the AU's strategy to boost trade within the region by at least 25-30 percent in the following decade.

COMESA Assistant Secretary General for Programmes Kipyego Cheluget said establishing Africa's first FTA with support from the US is an aspiration that still remains. (DM, 20.06.17)

### Import Ban of Medicines

The local pharmaceutical industry of Ghana gets a big boost following the government's decision to ban the importation of 49 medicines that are reserved for local manufacturers.

Listed medicines include: aluminium hydroxide or magnesium trisilicate suspension, amoxicillin capsules and suspension, aspirin or caffeine tablet, folic acid tablet, cetirizine tablet, co-trimoxazole tablet, diclofenac tablet, magnesium

trisilicate suspension and tablet and oral rehydration salt (ORS).

Others are paracetamol syrup, paracetamol tablet, codeine tablet, simple linctus syrup, vitamin B complex tablets and multivitamin tablets, Ibrufen tablet and cough mixture that contains carbocisteine diphengydramine, gualfenesin or ammonium chloride as a single ingredient. (DG, 23.05.17)

### High Excise Duty on Cigarette

British American Tobacco Zambia (BATZ) expects to post a K4.8mn loss before tax for this half-year period because of the 400 percent excise slapped on cigarette importation.

As the result of this performance, the company plans to set up a cigarette manufacturing plant locally to benefit from the status of a local manufacturer.

Cigarette importers reportedly pay 400 percent of the excise imposed on local manufacturers and during the start of 2017 the excise was increased for all players by 20 percent.

According to a statement the company anticipates a loss of K4,788,765 for the half-year period ending June 30, 2017.

(ToZ, 13.06.17)

### NTBs' Monitoring System

It will now be easier and faster for the business community in the COMESA to report trade barriers within the tripartite regional economic bloc, thanks to a new short messaging service (SMS) system.

According to experts, the innovation launched recently will help improve regional trade. The SMS tool will supplement the current web-based online system for reporting, monitoring and elimination of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) used by COMESA, the EAC and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The tripartite online reporting system is a real-time mechanism for reporting, processing, monitoring and resolving NTBs. *(NT, 03.05.17)*

### Benefits of Ghana-EU EPA

Ghana stands to gain a lot from the EPA signed between Ghana and the EU and the Vice President of the country, H E Dr. Mahamud Bawumia is optimistic about this.

Bawumia did not hide his optimism and government's desire to leverage the opportunities offered by the EPA when he met Ambassadors of EU Member States and Members of the European business community in Ghana.

According to Bawumia, the objectives of the EPA are to increase investments and create jobs in Ghana and intensify and facilitate trade between Ghana and the EU towards a sustainable economic partnership. *(GN, 20. 06.17)*

### Intra-Africa Trade at 40pc

Intra-Africa trade took 40 percent of the exports worth Sh234.1bn indicating a need to ease movement of goods and services.

The Economic Survey 2017 shows the EAC that brings together Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi continued to provide Kenya with a ready market that accounted for 51.9 percent of the intra-Africa trade.

The bloc, which is pursuing integration at economic and political levels, has also provided a ready market for Kenyan investments in manufacturing, banking and provision of professional services. Uganda remained the biggest market for Kenyan goods where Sh62bn worth was sold. *(TEA, 25.04.17)*

### More Intra-African Trade

The World Customs Organisation (WCO), has called for combined efforts towards boosting intra-African trade, proposing a number of reforms to ensure customs facilitate trade within the region.

Customs should coordinate border management, have one stop border post or a single window and more security by collaboration is what Africa should be looking at.

This was said at the 22<sup>nd</sup> WCO Council Governing Meeting in Kampala that attracted countries from East and South Africa. The Meeting aimed at looking at how customs can facilitate trade and creating platform for countries to collaborate. *(DM, 17.05.17)*

### Low Soya Bean Price

Farmers have cried foul on the drastic fall of the prices of soya beans by more than 100 percent during 2017's maize marketing season. A kg of soya beans that was previously fetching for K4.5 is in current year selling between K1.40 to K1.80 the same quantity.

Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) President Jervis Zimba said that the price of soya had this year fallen by more than 100 percent.

Zimba attributed the fall in the prices of the crop to less appetite by oil seed crushers buying the crop, which is the major raw material in the manufacturing of edible oils. *(ToZ, 30.05.17)*

### EAC for Complete SCT Rollout

The EAC Committee on Customs has agreed on full implementation of Single Customs Territory system (SCT) effective July 31, 2017 to enable faster clearance of goods and reduce the cost of doing business in the region.

Through this, the respective governments look forward to cutting time and resources used in collecting custom taxes at various borders.

The agreement was reached in Dar es Salaam, by respective Commissioner Generals of Revenue Authorities from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. SCT commenced in 2014 as a pilot project and it is the right time to roll it out. *(TEA, 02.05.17)*

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## Uniform Norms to Boost Trade



With intra-EAC trade on the decline, businesses are pushing for the harmonisation of standards for products, which would facilitate market access and improve the competitiveness of exporters in the region.

The East Africa Business Council (EABC) said that harmonising standards of most commonly traded goods in the region will enhance trade volumes because goods will cross borders without being subjected to multiple testing. It shows that harmonised standards improved competitiveness and market access for the six most traded products in the region by 18 percent. *(TEA, 11.06.17)*



## EAC Divided on Ban

EAC Member States are divided on whether to implement the ban on importation of used clothes and leather products, amid concerns that individual countries' interests are overriding regional policies.

Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania agreed in 2016 to ban the importation of second-hand clothes in the region by 2018, in order to boost their industrialisation programmes.

But one year on, Kenya has signalled that it will not respect the 2018 deadline on the grounds that it lacks the capacity to meet both the domestic and export demand for textiles.

(TEA, 01.06.17)



### AfDB to Fund Agribusiness

The AfDB will avail US\$1.1bn to five African countries, including Kenya, to address challenges arising from climate change.

The funds will be used to address the current drought challenges in Nigeria, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. African countries need to industrialise the agricultural sector and its value chain in order to transform their economies.

AfDB urged African governments to provide incentives to food and agribusiness firms in rural areas through establishment of staple crop processing zones. These staple processing zones will transform rural Africa into new zones of economic prosperity. (TEA, 04.05.17)

### Gender Mainstreaming in Trade

Regional countries should always consider gender in policy formulation and implementation, as well as in the negotiations of trade and other agreements because it is key to economic growth, Mukhisa Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary General said.

Kituyi said mainstreaming gender would ensure equity and inclusion in the region's development agenda.

The training would focus on the interactions between trade and gender and their links to the COMESA countries' inclusive development strategies and the influence of trade integration on gender outcomes in different economic sectors among member countries.

(TEA, 31.05.17)

### Intra-regional Trade Barrier

Lack of a single window for trade facilitation in many West and Central African countries has become an impediment to intra-regional trade, the Secretary General of the Port Management Association of the West and Central Africa (PMAWCA), Michael Luguje said.

According to him, out of the 20 countries within the PMAWCA zone, only Ghana, Togo and Benin have national single window systems that cover everything about port clearance procedures, as well as all other public agencies involved in the certification of products and payment of fees within a trade hub. (DG, 11.04.17)

### Attractive Investment Hub

Southern Africa is the region with the most attractive economies for investments flowing into Africa, according to the latest Africa Investment Index 2016 released by Quantum Global Research Lab recently.

According to the research, southern Africa has five countries in the top 10 with Botswana being ranked number one, overall. South Africa is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> followed by Zambia in 5<sup>th</sup> position while Tanzania (8<sup>th</sup>) and Namibia (9<sup>th</sup>) complete the region's dominance.

The five SADC countries have shown resilience to various economic challenges and remained committed to providing a favourable investment destination for investors coming to the continent. (TST, 08.05.17)

### Product Standards Harmonised

Standardisation experts from across West Africa are meeting in Accra, Ghana to harmonise the region's paint and varnishing standards. The meeting is to ensure that producers of paint and varnishing in the sub-region meet basic benchmarks.

The project, facilitated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), is part of a broader initiative aimed at harnessing the benefits of International Standards (31), which borders on safety and quality of consumer products and services, regional integration, facilitation of trade and reduction of technical barriers to trade. Specifications would be designed for draft paint and its allied products including lacquer and turpentine. (DG, 02.06.17)

### Adverse Climate to Impact SADC

The 2015–2016 El Nino-induced drought that plunged the entire SADC region into a food security crisis would not be the last to hit agriculture. It is almost certain that the southern Africa region will continue to have shocks in the future.

Prof Rukuni, Director of International Business Service said, "Droughts are a frequent occurrence in the region and it is critically important to rethink strategies for handling grain in times of good harvest and for responding to famines. SADC countries need to strike a balance between holding adequate strategic reserves and converting part into cash". (TST, 19.06.17)

### BoG to Facilitate Interoperability

The Global Head of Transactional Products and Services, Standard Bank Group, Hassan Khan, has backed moves by the Bank of Ghana (BoG) to facilitate money transfer services from one mobile money service provider to another, describing it as a necessary innovation.

In the advent of seamless transactions in the financial space, Khan said one could not think about a seamless mobile money services without interoperability – the industry term for money transfer across networks.

Khan mentioned stakeholders in the financial service sub-sector recently reviewed the payments systems to see if they allowed for the interoperability that consumers wanted. (GO, 07.04.17)

### GWCL to Introduce E-Billing

The Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) has decided to replicate nationwide, the electronic water billing (e-billing) system, which the company is currently piloting in the Tema Municipality.

The nationwide replication means there will be a shift from the current paper

bill that is distributed by GWCL's meter readers to its numerous customers throughout the country every month.

The Communications Director of the GWCL, Stanley Martey explained that the e-billing system would be implemented by use of emails and phone text messages. He assured the public that the new system was compatible with all types of mobile phones. (DG, 07.04.17)

### Low Quality Generics in Market

A recent report published in the journal by scientists at National Quality Control Laboratory (NQCL) and the University of Nairobi (Kenya) suggests that generic medicines in the local market do not meet international benchmarks.

Generics are supposed to have the same quality as brand name drugs, but recent tests of 16 types from retail pharmacies in Nairobi County failed to meet equivalence standards.

On the back of the alarming findings, health regulators have been pressed to undertake more extensive studies and ensure that fake generic drugs are taken off the shelves to protect consumers.

(TS, 04.05.17)

### Poor Services by Telcos in Ghana

There is growing public anger over the poor services being rendered by the country's telecommunication companies (telcos). The poor services, including call drops, call breaks, network congestion, Internet interruptions etc. have compelled some users to subscribe more than one network.

Although the complaints are nothing new, what has aggravated public anger is the fact that in the past, penalties imposed by the National Communications Authority (NCA) on the companies did not seem to have any impact on quality of service.

The NCA directed the mobile operators to provide the regulator with a strategy to address QoS issues, particularly within Accra-Tema. (DG, 05.05.17)

### Deteriorating Food Security

The severe drought affecting Kenya, which has driven up the cost of food and fuelled inflation, has become a key issue on the election campaign trail. Food security has deteriorated since the end of 2016 and conditions remain dire in half of the country's 47 counties.

The situation has been exacerbated by the impact of climate change, and it is anticipated that some regions could reach emergency levels of need by September 2017. The price of maize flour, the staple food for most of the population – has risen by 31 percent, milk by 12 percent and sugar by 21 percent. These increases drove up inflation to 11.5 percent.

(TG, 02.06.17)

### Concern over GMOs

HIVOS Southern Africa Hub Zambia is deeply concerned about choices Zambians make going for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) foods as opposed to go for healthy foods.

HIVOS Southern Africa regional advocacy manager for sustainable foods William Chilufya stated that it was important that Zambians appreciated their own food, and that the country had enough alternative foods.

"Our locally-produced food has kept us healthy for a long time now, which is evident from our forefathers who lived healthy unlike today where we have lots of diseases as a result of unhealthy foods", Chilufya said. (UKZAMBIANS, 24.06.17)

## Plastic Bags Ban to Remain

National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has maintained that any manufacturers and supermarkets using the plastic bags after the ban date of August 28, 2017 will be prosecuted. NEMA Director General said the ban would not be reversed, and advised the affected to put in place measures to ensure compliance.



The ban, issued by the Environment and Natural Resources Cabinet Secretary applies on the use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags. It does not apply to flat bags used for industrial packaging so long as they are used at source of the product and are not available at the counter. (TS, 06.06.17)

## Trends, Experiences and Socio-Economic Impact of Formalisation of Informal Trade in Africa

*CUTS-FAO Joint Validation Workshop on Trends, Experiences and Socio-Economic Impact of formalisation of Informal Trade in Africa focussed on Women Small Traders*



Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International in conjunction with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) jointly co-organised a study validation workshop entitled 'Trends, Experiences and Socio-Economic Impact of Formalisation of Informal Trade in Africa'. The workshop focussed on Women Small Traders and was held on May 23-24, 2017.

The aim of the workshop was to share best practices and lessons from East, West and Southern Africa on how to formalise Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT) with a focus on women, the marginalised group. It was also an opportunity to come up with additional recommended approaches and policy actions in relation to ICBT study and identify necessary strategies to be employed to meaningfully use the study as a tool for implementation thereafter.

The workshop had a diverse participation of over 36 participants drawn from East, South and West Africa representing different types of organisations. These included representatives from government (Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Gender), Cross-border trade associations, private sector Foundations, Chamber of Commerce, African Women in Business Associations, Gender-based organisations on Trade, Grain Councils, Trade Policy Advocacy Institutions, Academia, Development Organisations and media representatives from Rwanda.

The main themes discussed in the workshop included understanding the Dynamics of ICBT in Africa with experiences from Asia and West Africa being shared. A Private and Informal Sector Perspective of ICBT, Gendered Dimensions of ICBT in Africa, Gaps Impeding Formalisation of ICBT, Regional Integration and ICBT and Policy Approaches to Formalisation of ICBT. All these themes focussed on providing solutions to challenges facing cross-border trade in Africa.

Attaher Maiga, FAO Country Representative to Rwanda, opened the 2-day validation workshop. In his opening speech, he stated that effective market information systems, increased access to financial opportunities, and trade fairs are recipes for the formalisation of informal trade, which currently contributes about 42 percent to Gross National Income (GNI) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

CUTS Nairobi Director, Clement Onyango, in reiterated, that it is mostly poverty that pushes women into engaging in this type of trade. "Sometimes, the government does not want to interfere with informal trade as they also thrive on it", said Onyango. His main concern was the role that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) can play in ICBT.

He stated that CSOs role is to ensure that trade is inclusive, while considering gender aspects. There is need to provide resources for data generation that will inform policy dialogues in the continent and leverage also on ongoing discussions, such as the CFTA, he concluded.

Alice Twizeye, the Director of External Trade at the Rwandan Ministry of Trade, Industry and East African Community Affairs (MINEACOM) said that her government's concern on how key players in this sub-sector would contribute to economic growth dates back in 2010.

She decried the challenges in the women predominated sub-sector, which ranged from the economic activities being perceived as illegal, harassment, and corruption, to dire lack of infrastructure within market places, for example.

The workshop came up with recommendations that will feed in to the final ICBT study. It was agreed that there was need to include the recommendations into the study while referencing other work done in the past to fully comprehend the challenges.

As a way forward, the organisations present agreed to develop partnerships with other stakeholders relevant to informal cross-border to address the challenges faced by these traders.

It was agreed that CUTS and FAO will seek multi-stakeholder audience such as RECs and national governments of specific countries to report on these findings. CUTS agreed to identify one border post at each region and have a case study for advocacy while engaging the private sector to identify and address challenges faced by informal traders.



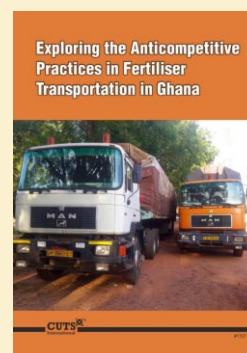
## Publications

### Research Report

## Exploring the Anticompetitive Practices in Fertiliser Transportation in Ghana

“Exploring the Anticompetitive Practices in Fertiliser Transportation in Ghana” study was undertaken by the CUTS Accra Centre with the aim of exploring possible causes of high prices of subsidised fertilisers in the country. The study was carried out with the sole aim to investigate if any anticompetitive practices are prevailing at the port handling and inland transportation of fertilisers as well as to determine the possible effects of such anticompetitive practices on the retail cost of fertilisers in Ghana. The research study emerged from the project entitled Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries’ (CREW Project), a project which was implemented in Ghana, India, Philippines and the Zambia, across two common sectors: 1) Staple Food and 2) Bus Transport sectors with the aim to demonstrate the benefits of competition reforms to consumers and producers.

[http://www.cuts-ccier.org/CREW/pdf/Exploring\\_the\\_Anticompetitive\\_Practices\\_in\\_Fertiliser\\_Transportation\\_in\\_Ghana.pdf](http://www.cuts-ccier.org/CREW/pdf/Exploring_the_Anticompetitive_Practices_in_Fertiliser_Transportation_in_Ghana.pdf)



## ReguLetter



The April-June 2017 issue of ReguLetter carries cover story entitled, ‘Towards effective Competition Regimes in Africa’ as its cover story, which states that the African continent is seeing steady growth in adoption of competition legislation since the 2000s. This is in spite of the fact that competition policy was taken out of the Doha Agenda negotiations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in July, 2004. Countries, aided by organisations like CUTS, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Bank (WB), etc. realised the value of having a competition regime for the benefit of its own economy even though it was not a part of the global trade agenda.

A special feature by Phil Deeks considers three fundamental areas financial advice firms should be focussing on to ensure they are on the front foot for embracing the UK Financial Conduct Authority’s (FCA’s) increasing focus on competition.

Another article by Morne Van Der Merwe points out that the perception of South Africa as an entry point into the continent and as a destination for medium-to-low risk developing market investment could be hit.

This newsletter can be accessed at: [www.cuts-ccier.org/reguletter.htm](http://www.cuts-ccier.org/reguletter.htm)

## Our Twitter Handle (@cutsafrica)



@cutsafrica June 8: Pricey #maize imports strain #southernAfrica @cutsafrica @CUTS\_Lusaka  
@cutsafrica May 23: #AFDBAM2017 #IndiaAfrica collaboration needed in #jobcreation #foodsecurity #Energy #p-kkindustrialisation #regionalintegration and #health

@cutsafrica May 15: #EconomicGrowth in #SSA rebounds #microeconomic #reforms required @Psm\_cuts @CUTS\_Nairobi @CUTS\_Lusaka @CUTS\_Accra

@cutsafrica May 3 Regional Body 2 Combat #IllicitTrade #AntiCounterfeit #FairCompetition @CUTS\_Nairobi @CUTSCCIEP @cutsitee @Psm\_cuts

@cutsafrica Apr 10 African Experts Consider Ways to Speed up #CFTA Negotiations @Cuts\_Nairobi @Cuts\_Lusaka @cutsitee <http://www.ictsd.org/node/99259> via @ICTSD\_Africa

@CUTS\_Nairobi May 23:#CSO's role in #ICBT is to ensure trade is inclusive to all gender groups & provide an enabling Env. says Clement, Director 4 @CUTS\_Nairobi

@CUTS\_Nairobi May 23:#Most workers in the informal sector lack access to basic skills and social protection like insurance, says FAO Rwanda Country Rep at #ICBT4

@CUTS\_Nairobi May 23:#Formalization of Informal Cross Border Trade in Africa validation workshop on trends, experience and socio-economic impacts by @cutsafrica & FAO

## Sources

DG: Daily Graphic, DM: Daily Monitor, DN: Daily Nation, GN: Ghana News, GO: GRAPHIC ONLINE, IN: Investigation News, NT: News Times, TEA: The East African, TG: The Guardian, ToZ: Times of Zambia, TS: The Standard, TST: The Southern Times

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