

Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute  
Federation of National Associations of Women in  
Business

#### Specialized Agencies

- COMESA Business Council (CBC)
- Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)
- Regional Association of Energy Regulators in Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA)
- East African Power Pool (EAPP)

#### Judicial Arm

COMESA Court of Justice


#### Decision Making Structure

- Authority of Heads of State & Government – (The Summit)
- Council of Ministers
- Inter-Governmental Committee
- Committee of Governors of Central Banks
- Technical Committees
- The Secretariat



Over  
**560**  
million people  
in ONE market

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## About COMESA

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA, is a regional economic community of 21 African Member States that came together to promote regional integration through trade and the development of natural and human resources for the mutual benefit of all people in the region.

## The Vision of COMESA

To be a fully integrated economic community that is prosperous, internationally competitive, and ready to merge into the African Economic Community.

## COMESA Member States

Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## COMESA in Numbers

- Member States 21
- Population: 560 million
- Gross Domestic Product: \$768 billion
- Landmass: 11.8 million Km<sup>2</sup>
- Potential Intra-COMESA trade is approx. \$82.4 billion
- COMESA constitutes a third of Africa continent.
- It is the largest regional economic body in Africa

## What COMESA Offers

COMESA offers its members and partners a wide range of benefits which include:

- \* A wider, harmonized and more competitive market
- \* Greater industrial productivity and competitiveness
- \* More harmonised monetary, banking and financial policies
- \* Increased agricultural production and food security
- \* A more rational exploitation of natural resources
- \* More reliable transport and communications

infrastructure

## Success Stories

### • Free Trade Area

COMESA established a Free Trade Area in 2000, setting the stage for the reduction of tariffs amongst Member States. Hence, intra COMESA trade has grown at an average of seven per cent with higher increases reflected between intra-Free Trade Area States.

### • Removal of Non-Tariff Barriers

By 2018, 98% of NTBs reported since 2008 had been resolved. These covered: liberalisation of import licensing, removal of foreign exchange restrictions, taxes on foreign exchange, import and export quotas, road blocks, easing of Customs formalities, extending times border posts are open, creation of one-stop-border -posts, among others.

### • COMESA Carrier's License

The License allows commercial goods vehicles to use one license to operate in all Member States. This means that vehicles can pick up loads on return trips in other countries thus making efficient use of transport fleet and reducing the cost of trade.

### • The Regional Customs Transit Guarantee Scheme - RCTG

The RCTG Scheme is a customs transit regime developed to facilitate the movement of goods under customs seals in the COMESA region. It provides the required customs security and guarantee to the transit countries. Among its key benefit is the reducing the cost of Bond / Guarantee and collaterals charged by Sureties and agents.

### • The Yellow Card

The COMESA Yellow Card Insurance Scheme is a Regional Third-Party Motor Vehicle Insurance

Scheme. It provides third party legal liability cover and compensation for medical expenses resulting from road traffic accidents caused by motorists visiting countries in the Scheme.

### • COMESA Virtual Trade Facilitation System (CVTFS)

CVTFS is an online system that integrates other COMESA trade facilitation instruments (Yellow Card, RCTG, Carrier License Harmonized axle load etc) in one platform. It also helps to monitor cargo along different transport corridors across the region. It helps to monitor consignments along different transport corridors across the region.

### • COMESA Monetary Harmonisation Programme

The Programme aims at establishing a common monetary area to facilitate economic integration and sustained economic development. The ultimate objective is to achieve a Monetary Union.

## The Tripartite Free Trade Area

The Tripartite brings together 29 countries in three regional economic blocs; COMESA, East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The Tripartite Free Trade Area was established to address some of the inconsistencies and costs in regional integration brought about by overlapping memberships of States to the three regional organizations.

## COMESA Institutions

COMESA Clearing House

COMESA Monetary Institute

Trade and Development Bank

African Trade Insurance Agency

COMESA Competition Commission

PTA Reinsurance Company (ZEP-RE)

COMESA Regional Investment Agency