

TP/TWG-ROO/26/2019/-
REPORT

Adopted Report



COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE

TWENTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
ON RULES OF ORIGIN

HILTON HOTEL

KENYA

16 - 21 SEPTEMBER, 2019

REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Rules of Origin (RoO) was held from 16 – 21 September, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the Meeting was to consider and finalise the draft Manual on the Application of Tripartite FTA Rules of Origin, consider the list rules of origin that should apply to new Heading 96.20 and new subheading 8539.50, the agreed list rules of origin aligned to HS 2017, the Special and Differential (S & D) treatment provisions for Island States and the Paper on Cumulation with African countries that are members to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) but not part of the TFTA.
2. The Meeting was held in parallel with the 10th Meeting of the TWG on Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Non-Tariff Barriers, the 11th Meeting of the TWG on Customs Cooperation, Documentation, Procedures and Transit Instruments and the 3rd Meetings of the TWGs on Trade in Services and Competition Policy, respectively.
3. The Meeting was attended by delegates from the Member/Partner States of the EAC (Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), Egypt, SACU (Botswana, Namibia and South Africa), Madagascar, Zimbabwe and officials from the COMESA Secretariat. The list of participants is attached as *Annex I*.
4. The meeting was chaired by Mr Francis Koluo, Principal Commercial Officer, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives of Uganda while Ms Molly Apio Opwonya, Legal Officer, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, of Uganda was the Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur was Mrs Mosadinyana G. Nthomiwa, Chief Trade Officer, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry of Botswana.

CONFIRMATION OF THE BUREAU (*Agenda item 1*)

5. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau was constituted as follows:

Chairperson	:	Uganda, representing COMESA
Vice-Chairperson	:	Uganda, representing EAC
Rapporteur	:	Botswana, representing SADC

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (*Agenda Item 2*)

6. A joint opening session for the five parallel TWG meetings was held. In his opening remarks, Dr Seth Gor, the Tripartite Capacity Building Programme (TCBP) Coordinator welcomed the delegates to the meetings on behalf of the Tripartite Task Force. He informed the delegates that in addition, a meeting of the Tripartite Sub-Committee on Resource Mobilisation would be held on the margins of the five TWG meetings. Dr Gor also informed the delegates that the TWG meetings were building on the achievements of the last meetings held in August 2019 in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania.

