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PROGRAMME

The Seventh COMESA Annual Research Forum

Theme: Harnessing Intra-COMESA Trade through the Interface with African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA).

19-21 October 2020

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2020

08:30-09:00: Participants Roll call

09.00 – 10.00: OPENING SESSION

Moderator: Dr Christopher Onyango, Director, Trade and Customs, COMESA Secretariat

- Remarks by Amb. Kipyego Cheluget, PhD, Assistant Secretary General (Programmes), COMESA
- Remarks by Mr. Escipi3n J. OLIVEIRA G3MEZ Assistant Secretary General Structural Economic Transformation and Trade, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)
- Opening Speech by Madam Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, Secretary General, COMESA
- Keynote Speaker, Dr. Stephen Karingi, Director, Capacity Building Development, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Vote of Thanks (Rep. Republic of Mauritius)

11.00-12.00

- Election of the Bureau - Bureau will preside over the forum Assisted by Session Chair
- A brief on the COMESA Annual Research Forum and the COMESA Virtual University Programme - Benedict Musengele
- Presentation on Status of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations and the Interface between AfCFTA and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)-Mr. Prudence Sebahizi, Chief Advisor of AfCFTA & Head of AfCFTA Negotiations Unit, Africa Union Commission (AUC)

SUB THEME 1: AFCFTA OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TO BOOSTING INTRA-COMESA TRADE

12.00-13.15: Session 1:

Moderator: Prof. Nelson Wawire

Estimating the Economic Effect of the African Continental Free Trade Area on COMESA Region

- Presenter: Rodgers A. Wanyonyi
- Discussant: Discussant: Dr. Pamela Nakamba
- Plenary Discussion

13.15-14.15: Lunch Break

14.15-15.30: Session 2:

Moderator: Prof. Nelson Wawire

A Partial Equilibrium Analysis of the Effects of the African Continental Free Trade Area on Intra-COMESA Trade, Tariff Revenue and Welfare

- Presenter: Mashura Shingirirai
- Discussant: Prof. Ronald Mangani
- Plenary Discussion

15.30-16.45: Session 3:

Moderator: Dr. Dumsile Dlamini

Opportunities and Challenges for COMESA in the AfCFTA: A SMART Simulation

- Presenter: Kissinger Chiunjira
- Discussant: Dr. Bernard Monnaie
- Plenary Discussion

End of Day One

SUB-THEME: AFCFTA OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TO BOOSTING INTRA-COMESA TRADE

09.00-10.15: Session 1:

Moderator: Prof. Mutale Musonda

The Implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area on Intra-COMESA Trade

- Presenter: Stein Masunda
- Discussant: Dr. Dumsile Dlamini
- Plenary Discussion

10.15-11.30: Session 2:

Moderator: Dr. Dumsile Dlamini

Antecedents to the AfCFTA: Insights from export survival

- Presenter: Majune Kraido
- Discussant: Dr. Muyanga Milu
- Plenary Discussion:

11.30-12.45: Session 3:

Moderator: Prof. Mutale Musonda

Boosting COMESA's Trade in the African Continent: Optimizing COMESA's Opportunities in the AfCFTA

- Presenter: Manaseh Oiro
- Discussant: Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa
- Plenary Discussion

12.45-13.45: Lunch Break

13.45-15.00: Session 4:

Moderator: Dr. Pamela Nakamba

Does the Current Concessioning Regime of Border Posts Infrastructure yield Optimal Trade Efficiency for Africa? Lessons for COMESA

- Presenter: Adam Willie
- Discussant: Dr Zeinab Mamdouh
- Plenary Discussion

SUB-THEME: AFCFTA AND COMESA TRADE REGIMES

15.00-16.15: Session 5

Moderator: Dr. Pamela Nakamba

The Comparative Potential Growth-Enhancing Effects of the AfCFTA and COMESA Trade Regimes

- Presenter: Dr. Exley B. D. Silumbu
- Discussant: Prof. Nelson Wawire
- Plenary Discussion:

End of Day Two

SUB-THEME: COMESA TRADE IN SERVICES LIBERALIZATION AND THE AfCFTA

09.00-10.15: Session 1

Moderator: Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa

COMESA's Intra-Trade in Services and the AfCFTA

- Presenter: Judy Kiende Kaaria.
- Discussant: Dr. Raymond Boumbouya
- Plenary Discussion:

10.15-12.00: Report writing

12.00-13.30: Report Adoption

13.30-14.00: Closing Remarks by Amb. Kipyego Cheluget, PhD, Assistant Secretary General (Programmes)
COMESA

End of Forum

COMESA Annual Research Forum

The COMESA Research Forum was launched in 2014. The main objective of the forum is to strengthen the participation of the government, leading policy research think tanks, academia and the private sector in regional integration agenda. Specifically, the forum provides a platform for sharing and discussing regional integration research findings. Since 2014, COMESA has organized six research forums where numerous research papers on key issues in regional integration have been presented and peer reviewed. The final papers are published in the COMESA flagship publication “Key Issues in Regional Integration”. To date, seven editions have been published. The policy implications from the papers are presented through the COMESA policy organs meetings and have informed decision making in the region. Among the key outcomes of the forums is the launch of the COMESA Virtual University of Regional Integration and the COMESA Innovation Awards.

The COMESA Annual Research Forum is funded by COMESA, the European Union and the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) under the TradeCom II Capacity Building Programme through the COMESA project on Enhancing COMESA Capacity in Trade Policy Analysis, Research and Training for Deeper Regional Integration and Participation in Global Economy.

