

## COMESA-EU Partnership Shaping a Digital Future

### Safe Digital Boost for Africa Programme to be implemented



Delegates at the technical scoping workshop for the Safe Digital Boost for Africa Programme held in Nairobi

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has taken a significant stride toward digital transformation with the successful conclusion of a three-day technical scoping workshop for the Safe Digital Boost for Africa (SDBA) Programme.

The workshop, held from 4th - 6th March 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together key stakeholders to chart a course for digital advancement across the region.

Funded by the European Union (EU) under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the SDBA Programme aims to revolutionise trade, digitalisation, and cybersecurity across Africa. The COMESA component will build on the achievements of the Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) programme, with a renewed focus on facilitating eCommerce and advancing

ePayments systems.

The program will directly extend ongoing efforts to harmonise legal and technical standards, enhance digital infrastructure, and support deployment of the COMESA Digital Retail Payment Platform across eight pilot countries: Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Mauritius.

.....

**“I wish to emphasise the importance of the Safe Digital Boost for Africa Programme which complements efforts by the Kenya Government to expand digital and physical infrastructure to enable citizens experience benefits from government services and participate in structured trading,”** Mr. Alfred K’ombudo.

The Digital for Development (D4D) Hub facilitated the event, which featured robust participation from COMESA Ministries of Trade, public and private sector representatives, including Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), commercial banks, central banks, and FinTech companies.

Mr. Alfred K’ombudo, the Principal Secretary of Kenya’s State Department for Trade within the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, officially opened the workshop, emphasizing Kenya’s commitment to digital transformation.

“I wish to emphasise the importance of the Safe Digital Boost for Africa Programme which complements efforts by the Kenya Government to expand digital and physical infrastructure to enable citizens experience benefits from government services and participate in structured trading,” he stated.

# Gender-Responsive Trade Policies Initiative at Kenya/Uganda Border



Participants at the Public Private Dialogue in Busia

On 26 February 2025, the COMESA Secretariat and the Investment Climate Reform (ICR) Facility held a public-private dialogue (PPD) workshop on promoting women's economic empowerment and fostering gender-responsive trade policies at the Kenya-Uganda border of Busia.

The dialogue was the third in a series of workshops supported by the ICR Facility, which is co-funded by the European Union (EU) under the 11th EDF with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the British Council.

It brought together 25 participants who included representatives of key border agencies such as Immigration, Customs and Standards, leaders of cross border traders' associations from Kenya and Uganda as well as women traders to discuss strategies, share best practices, and collaborate on empowering women to drive regional economic growth.

Four border points in the region were selected for the dialogue workshops, namely Chirundu (Zambia-Zimbabwe border), Mwami (Zambia-Malawi border),

Busia (Uganda-Kenya border) and Kasumbalesa (DR Congo-Zambia border). These workshops aim to foster meaningful dialogue between public and private sector stakeholders to identify and address challenges that women traders face at border crossings. They are focused on developing and implementing gender-responsive policies in line with COMESA's commitment to promoting gender equality and increasing economic opportunities for women in the region. Mr Silvanus Nkanae, Customs and Border Control officer on the Kenya side of Busia border opened the workshop by noting the importance of public-private partnerships in driving economic growth.

"As we seek to enhance trade facilitation, improve regulatory frameworks, and unlock opportunities for MSMEs, youth, and women entrepreneurs, it is imperative that we strengthen collaboration between policy makers and the business community.

"A harmonized approach will not only reduce barriers to trade but also create a more competitive and inclusive regional market," he said.

Mr Edmund Rutebemberwa, who spoke on behalf of Uganda, thanked COMESA Secretariat and the ICR Facility for the initiative and observed that a joint engagement would lead to jointly identifying challenges and prescribing solutions.

Speaking on behalf of the COMESA Secretariat, Senior Gender Mainstreaming Officer Ms Tsige Biyazen noted that border points are key trade corridors where women's economic participation is both vibrant and challenged by various structural and operational constraints. "By bringing together public and private sector stakeholders, we aim to generate actionable recommendations that will inform policies and interventions for an enabling and supportive operating environment for women in cross-border trade," Ms Biyazen stated.

Presentations and discussions focused on COMESA's gender-responsive policies, trade facilitation tools such as the Simplified Trade Regime (STR), and the draft regional women economic empowerment strategy, among others.





# First Compendium of Environment Statistics for Kenya Launched

## COMESA-EU Partnership...



L-R: Peter Nielson (Statistics Sweden), Dr Macdonald Obudho, CEO, (KNBS) Ms. Mshuka Kamwela (COMESA-EDF) Dr Daniel Amanja, (KNBS) Ngawo Banda (COMESA) and Paul Nderitu (KNBS) at the launch of the first Compendium of Environmental Statistics for Kenya.

**“This investment goes beyond financial support - it represents a transformative shift in how businesses and individuals conduct cross-border transactions,” Ms. Mshuka Kamwela.**

Ms. Mshuka Kamwela, Programme Manager for COMESA-European Development Fund (EDF), highlighted that the workshop marked the first step following the signing of the €10 million Financing Agreement between COMESA and the European Union.

“This investment goes beyond financial support - it represents a transformative shift in how businesses and individuals conduct cross-border transactions,” she noted.

Ms. Christiane Haziyo, Programme Manager for Regional Cooperation and Trade Facilitation at the EU Delegation to Zambia and COMESA, reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the initiative.

“With this programme, we are delivering on the EU flagship Global Gateway aiming to connect goods, people, and services around the world in a sustainable way,” she said.

The outcomes of the workshop were several strategic recommendations on key multiple focus areas including on Legal Framework and Regulation, Technical Integration and Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion and Market Development, and on Consumer Protection and Trust

The significance of these initiatives for the region's economies cannot be overstated. For instance, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute an estimated 50% to 70% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and account for 50% to 60% of employment opportunities in the COMESA region, enhancing digital financial inclusion imperative for economic development.

Following the workshop, COMESA Secretariat and the European Union Delegation to Zambia and COMESA will work with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive implementation plan based on the recommendations.

COMESA and the Government of Kenya launched the first-ever Compendium of Environment Statistics for Kenya, on 20 March 2025, a vital resource that consolidates key data on environmental conditions, natural resource use, waste management, disasters, human settlements, and environmental policies.

Developed by COMESA through its EU-funded Eleventh European Development Fund (EDF-11) Institutional Capacity Building Program (ICBP), the compendium addresses the critical need for reliable environmental statistics.

With this resource, the Kenyan government, businesses, researchers, and civil society can now develop more effective climate action plans, implement science-driven policies, monitor progress toward environmental commitments, and enhance transparency in governance.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) was the lead agency in this initiative. COMESA Secretary General, Chileshe Kapwepwe, hailed the compendium as more than just a collection of data—it is a pivotal tool for sustainable development, evidence-based policymaking, and proactive climate action.

“This initiative is about more than just producing a report. It is about fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making that will shape Kenya's environmental policies for years to come,” she said in a statement delivered by Ms. Mshuka Kamwela, COMESA-EDF Programme Manager.

The compendium goes beyond raw statistics, providing insights into trends, patterns, and emerging threats that require urgent action. Its methodologies can serve as a model for other countries in the region striving to enhance environmental data collection and analysis.

The environmental statistics in the compendium will play a key role in assessing biodiversity loss to guide conservation efforts and protect endangered species and fragile ecosystems, monitoring air and water quality to enable timely interventions that safeguard public health and promote sustainability.

Dr. Daniel Amanja, Chair of the KNBS Board, who officially launched the report, emphasized that the compendium's impact will be felt in the practical application of environmental statistics for a greener and more sustainable future.

KNBS Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Macdonald Obudho, underscored its significance, stating: “This report is directly relevant to our lives—the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the places we live.”

Peter Nielson, representing Statistics Sweden, a key collaborating partner, advocated for more frequent production of environmental statistics to keep pace with climate changes.

This launch marks a significant step forward in strengthening Kenya's environmental data framework, supporting informed decision-making, and fostering a sustainable future.



H.E. Lilian Cheptoo Tomitom presenting her letter of credence to the COMESA Secretary General, H.E. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe

## New Kenya Envoy Accredited to COMESA

Kenya's High Commissioner to Zambia, H.E. Lilian Cheptoo Tomitom has been accredited to COMESA as the country's Permanent Representative.

Speaking when she presented her letters of credence to Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, in Lusaka, 20 March 2025, Ambassador Tomitom reaffirmed her country's commitment to working with all COMESA Member states for economic growth. She also underscored Kenya's deep-rooted commitment to fostering regional economic integration by fully participating in all programmes that the COMESA Secretariat initiates on behalf of the member states.

"Kenya remains steadfast in its pursuit of economic cooperation and regional trade advancement. I look forward to working closely with the secretariat and member states to drive COMESA's integration agenda forward," She stated.

Receiving the new envoy, the SG noted that the world economy was constantly changing, thus it is important to strengthen regional partnerships to address key challenges such as the



recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, dealing with climate change and adapting to new trade conditions.

"Kenya consistently demonstrated its leadership in economic integration through its strong commitment to the COMESA Free Trade Area, the Tripartite Free Trade Area, and the African Continental Free Trade Area," said the SG. "The country has also been instrumental in infrastructure development, trade facilitation and cross border cooperation," she noted.

The accreditation marks another step

towards enhancing Kenya-COMESA relations, which will further reinforce the country's influence in shaping regional economic policies and strengthening its position within the bloc.

Event Photos: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC64VP>

**"Kenya remains steadfast in its pursuit of economic cooperation and regional trade advancement. I look forward to working closely with the secretariat and member states to drive COMESA's integration agenda forward,"** Lilian Cheptoo Tomitom





# COMESA, AfDB Launch USD1.5m Information Management Systems on Energy



L-R: Eng. Elijah C. Sichone, Director General, ERB, Ambassador Dr.Mohamed Kadah and Mr. Callixte KAMBANDA, Manager, Energy Policy, Regulatory and Statistics Division of the AfDB.

The African Development Bank and COMESA, have launched a USD 1.5 million Information Management System (IMS) to streamline data collection, analysis, and reporting for electricity regulators and utilities across member states. This online platform will enable efficient data submission and access, supporting annual and biannual reporting.

This initiative, covering 12 COMESA countries and South Sudan, aims to standardize monitoring and evaluation, driving best practices in the energy sector. Other COMESA nations are supported through a parallel initiative by RERA-SADC.

The new Information Management System spearheaded by COMESA through the Regional Association of Energy Regulators in Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA) under the Project on Regional Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks and Tools for Improved Electricity Regulation in the region shall see tangible progress in energy access, economic development,

poverty reduction, and wealth creation.

Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe represented by Assistant Secretary General in Charge of programmes Ambassador Dr.Mohamed Kadah with Mr. Callixte KAMBANDA, Manager, Energy Policy, Regulatory and Statistics Division of the African Development Bank and the Bank's Team, and Eng. Elijah C. Sichone, Director General, Energy Regulation Board (ERB) of Zambia launched the IMS at the Secretariat on 21 March 2025.

Ambassador Dr. Kadah stated that the RAERESA IMS will not only enable regulators and utilities in our participating Member States to monitor progress against established key performance indicators, but will also create a platform for transparent and consistent reporting across the region.

"In effect, this is a game-changer, promoting regional harmonization and accountability, enhancing data-driven decision-making, and ultimately fostering an environment conducive to

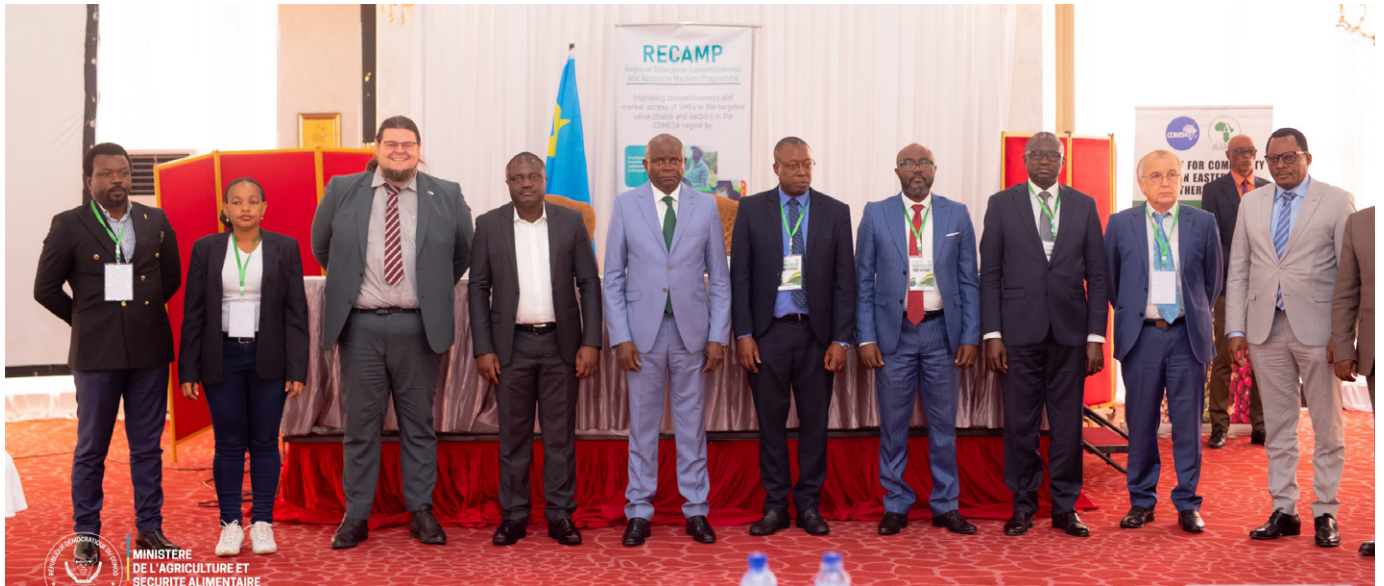
regional energy trade, integration, and investment," Ambassador Dr Kadah said.

He added that the development of the Information Management System (IMS) is a major milestone under the project on Regional Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks and Tools for Improved Electricity Regulation.

"It embodies our commitment to creating a transparent, data-driven, and harmonized regulatory environment that supports investment and drives economic growth," he added.

Eng Sichone who is also Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Capacity Building, Information Exchange, Energy Statistics & Database of RAERESA, thanked COMESA for spearheading the development of the IMS.

He said that the Information Management System (IMS) will facilitate standardized data collection, analysis, and reporting across 13 participating Member States. It will empower regulators and utilities with a robust



Democratic Republic of Congo Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Gregoire Mutshail Mutomb, (5th left) and ACTESA CEO, Dr John Mukuka, pose for a group picture with the seed industry stakeholders at the COMESA Aligned National Seed Regulations Awareness Meeting at Beatrice Hotel in Kinshasa DRC.

## Regional Seed Programme set to Boost DR Congo's Seed Trade & Food Security

Access to quality seeds remains a significant challenge for smallholder farmers in the COMESA region. Pursuant to this goal, COMESA in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) held a two-day awareness sensitization meeting on the DR Congo/COMESA Aligned National Seed Regulations in Kinshasa, on 26 - 27 February 2025.

DR Congo's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Gregoire Mutshail Mutomb, was the chief guest. In his remarks, he reaffirmed the country's collaborative support and commitment towards unlocking regional seed trade opportunities in Africa for a more sustainable, competitive, and enhanced Agriculture Trade in the region.

The Minister underscored the relevance of seed trade laws harmonization in the COMESA and EAC region for improved quality seed, increased agriculture production and food security. He remarked that harmonization of seed trade regulations is crucial for strengthening governance in the seed sector of the DR Congo.

"It remains crucial for DR Congo to ensure the enactment of Seed Trade Laws in Parliament for us as a country to be competitive on the regional market. DR Congo like other African countries has

immense potential to increase its agriculture productivity not only to enhance food security but trade with other countries in the region," he said. Therefore, it's important that we coordinate our efforts in ensuring that we establish functional seed trade systems with proper governance systems. Let's leverage the availability of abundant fertile land and favourable climate."

Secretary-General of Agriculture in Congo, Dr Jose Ilanga, reiterated the importance of functional Seed Laws and regulations in ensuring improved cross-border trade among the COMESA Member States. He noted that harmonization of seed trade laws facilitates establishment of seed systems that enhance the production of quality and affordable seed for increased agriculture productivity.

"Establishing an appropriate regulatory framework for seed trade in DRC cannot be over emphasized. The DR Congo's integration into the COMESA region requires aligning its legal instruments with the organization's standards to facilitate increased Gross Domestic Product and cross-border seed trade," he stated. ACTESA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. John Mukuka, remarked on COMESA's continued support and commitment towards ensuring COMESA Member States enact and implement the Harmonised Seed regulations for enhanced regional

integration. This is in line with strategic objectives of the COMESA Seed Harmonisation Implementation Plan (COMSHIP).

Over the two days, the participants delved into various topics ranging from; COMSHIP status at regional level, challenges and opportunities in the implementation process and the new seed law. Also discussed were the COMESA Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations at national level focusing on Variety Release and Harmonization Regulations at national level and Seed Certification, among other topics.

The meeting drew participation from representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Plant and Health, National Seed Authorities, National Plant Protection Organization, National Seed Trade Associations (NSTAs), National Agricultural Research Organisations, seed companies, Non-Governmental Organisations and the National Seed Trade Associations and development partners.

Supported by the COMESA Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) and funded by the European Union under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF 11), the sensitization meeting marked a pivotal milestone in ACTESA's series of sensitization COMSHIP meetings in COMESA countries.





## COMESA, AfDB Launch IMS ..



Stakeholders at the launch of the IMS for the energy sector

from page 5

platform to monitor performance against key indicators, promote transparency, and enhance data-driven decision-making.

“Ultimately, this will contribute to a more resilient and integrated regional electricity market,” Eng. Sichone said.

The African Development Bank provided the USD1.5M technical assistance to COMESA for the development of tools and frameworks to harmonizing regulatory policies across the region.

Division Manager for Energy Policy, Regulation and Statistics at the AfDB, Callixte Kambanda stated that an integrated power market will play a crucial role in shaping Africa’s energy transition.

“It is truly refreshing to celebrate this milestone and re-affirm our

shared commitment to fostering an enabling environment for investment, strengthening investor confidence in Africa’s electricity markets, unlocking the continent’s vast energy potential, and accelerating universal energy access,” Mr Kambanda satated.

He added that Furthermore, the launch coincides with the ambitious objectives of Mission 300, a bold initiative jointly launched by the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group. The Mission 300 aims to provide 300 million first-time electricity connections across the continent by 2030. Twelve pilot countries have already committed to National Energy Compacts, which include time-bound targets for expanding energy access, mobilizing private sector investments, adopting new policies and regulations, and reforming electricity markets.

With the initiative directly targeting nearly half of Africa’s population

currently without electricity access, as well as 87 percent of the world’s unelectrified population, Mr Kambanda said that a strong regulatory environment, regional integration, and cross-border electricity trade are critical to achieving the objectives of Mission 300.

The launch marks a significant milestone in our journey towards enhancing electricity regulation and improving energy access across the COMESA region.

**Event Photos:** <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC6bgV>



COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe with female staff at the celebrations

## COMESA Women Celebrate International Women's Month

Female Staff at the COMESA Secretariat gathered on March 21, 2025, to celebrate international women's month under the theme "Accelerate Action for All Women and Girls: Equality. Rights. Empowerment." The event provided a platform for reflection, experience sharing, and mutual learning.

The highlight of the celebration was an engaging conversation with Secretary General Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, who shared practical insights on leadership, professional growth, and overcoming workplace challenges.

"Strength is better than power. Never apologize for being a woman. Don't be afraid to admit you have failed—failure teaches you lessons. Make a difference; don't be a seat warmer. Bring something valuable or leave something impactful. Empower yourself, because when you are empowered, you can challenge the status quo. Prepare yourself enough to take up a leadership role—don't just fight for it. And once you've reached success, be ready to transfer knowledge and support other women as they climb the ladder to where

you are," she advised.

Madam Kapwepwe emphasized the importance of women's active involvement in policy reforms and economic decision-making, reaffirming COMESA's commitment to gender-responsive policies that support women's leadership and participation in key economic sectors.

She added, "Gender equality is not just about fighting for your rights; it requires you to adequately prepare, strive for empowerment, and make valuable contributions that position you as a leader who drives impact. When women are empowered, communities and economies thrive because their contributions come from a place of total commitment and dedication."

The event also facilitated networking and mentorship, allowing women from different departments to discuss their professional growth, challenges, and strategies for balancing work and family life. The Q&A session was particularly engaging, with many women expressing

appreciation for the Secretary General's insights, calling them relatable, motivational, and empowering.

The event was a call to action, urging women to continue striving for leadership, influence, and impact in their respective fields, and reinforcing the importance of creating opportunities for women to thrive in their careers.

.....

**"Gender equality is not just about fighting for your rights; it requires you to adequately prepare, strive for empowerment, and make valuable contributions that position you as a leader who drives impact." Chileshe Kapwepwe**





# COMESA Kicks Off Preparations for 2026–2030 Medium-Term Strategic Plan



Preparations for the development of COMESA's 2026–2030 Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) have commenced with a two-day retreat for management and technical staff in Lusaka, held on March 24–25, 2025.

The retreat's agenda focused on reviewing the performance of the current 2021–2025 MTSP, identifying successes, challenges, and key lessons to inform the next five-year plan.

Leading the discussions, COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe emphasized the need for excellence in all aspects of the regional bloc's operations. She highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement in implementing regional integration programs.

"This exercise is not just another retreat—it is a defining moment in COMESA's journey. We are dedicating time to discuss and agree on key milestones that will shape our policies, instruments, programs, and activities for the next five years. Our goal is to positively impact more than 670 million people in our region," Ms.

Kapwepwe stated.

She underscored COMESA's strategy of fostering regional integration through trade, investment, agriculture, social development, physical infrastructure, and connectivity. Reflecting on the organization's three decades of existence, she acknowledged the economic challenges Member States have faced—including debt, rising inflation, and increasing living costs—stressing the need for an effective strategic plan.

Despite these challenges, the Secretary General noted that the region has shown resilience, recovering from the effects of COVID-19, climate change, and geopolitical tensions. By the end of 2025, the region is projected to register an average GDP growth rate of 5.6%.

Assistant Secretaries General for Programmes and Administration & Finance, Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah and Dr. Dev Haman, also addressed the retreat. Dr. Kadah emphasized the need for organizational efficiency, innovation, and effective communication to showcase COMESA's achievements. Meanwhile,

Dr. Haman highlighted the importance of prudent resource management and ensuring sustainability beyond donor support.

The management team acknowledged the crucial role of COMESA's development partners, including the European Union, the African Development Bank, and the World Bank, in supporting various regional programs over the years.

Through successive MTSPs, COMESA has achieved significant milestones, including establishing Africa's largest Free Trade Area, implementing a Simplified Trade Regime, automating border posts through the ASYCUDA system, and eliminating most Non-Tariff Barriers to enhance intra-regional trade. Additionally, COMESA's institutions continue to play a vital role in deepening regional trade and improving the livelihoods of citizens across its 21 Member States.

**Event Photos:** <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC6zAB>

# Regional Apex Bank's Staff Trained to Address Data Delays in Forecasting GDP

Most Member States do not compile high-frequency measures of gross domestic product (GDP). If they do, the estimates come with a considerable lag, yet policy decisions need to be made often, particularly when major shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic or climate related shocks have occurred.

This has inspired the COMESA Monetary Institute to come up with a training programme to build the capacity of staff in the regional apex banks to address this challenge. The first activity was a training program titled 'Now casting and Near-Term Forecasting of GDP' which was conducted on 24 - 28 February 2025, in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective was to engage central bank staff involved in policy analysis to appreciate nowcasting and acquaint them with the standard nowcasting methods and Near-Term Forecasting of GDP. It was attended by delegates from eight COMESA member

Central Banks namely: Djibouti, Eswatini, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Now-casting simply means seeking to understand things (predict) the way they are happening now while Near-term forecasting is predicting what will happen in the Near future.

At the opening of the session, Dr Lucas Njoroge, Director of CMI observed that data publication delays and missing data complicates forward-looking policy making. In such context, he noted, making use of a range of leading and coincident variables to forecast in real-time the missing values of GDP have become a standard practice in the analysis of economic outlook, in what is referred to as nowcasting. Its aim is to bridge the gap between the time lag in data releases and policymaking.

The training equipped the participants with scientific tools to overcome numerous data challenges faced by most COMESA member countries including but not limited to, missing data, lack of high frequency data, considerable data lags and publication delays.

The skills acquired at the training included various methods for now casting and near-term forecasting of GDP, which they will start applying to improve their forecasting methods. Participants also shared knowledge and experience of various aspects of forecasting.

"The 'Now casting and Near-Term Forecasting of GDP' is part of the CMI 2025 Work Plan, which was approved by the 28th meeting of the COMESA Committee of Governors of Central Banks in November 2024.

## COMESA SG is the new Chancellor of Eden University



COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe (R) installed as the second Chancellor of Eden University

COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe is now the Chancellor of Eden University in Zambia. She was installed to the position on 6 March 2025 in a ceremony conducted in Lusaka, Zambia. In her acceptance speech, she stressed the importance of supporting all efforts especially by local institutions to address

the critical need to impart knowledge and skills to young people.

"With over 14,000 students, including those from the COMESA region, the African continent and beyond, this underscores the quality of education offered the University." Ms Kapwepwe

said adding "the attraction of learners from far and wide, underscores one of our core values, which is inclusive education for differently abled and disadvantaged persons,"

The Eden University has progressed from a college to a private University since 2016.





Madam Monique Andreas Esoavelomandroso

## Madagascar Member of the Committee of Elders Passes on

The COMESA Secretariat has learnt with deep sorrow about the passing on of Madam Monique Andreas Esoavelomandroso, a member of the COMESA Committee of Elders from Madagascar. She died on Monday 17th March 2025 in Madagascar.

Head of the Governance, Peace and Security Unit Dr Oita Etyang revealed that upon being appointed to the Committee of Elders in 2021, Madam Esoavelomandroso was an active member and served COMESA with dedication.

Before being appointed to the

COMESA Committee of Elders, Madam Esoavelomandroso was a Minister of Decentralization and Development of Autonomous Provinces of the Republic of Madagascar (2002-2005). Thereafter, she served as Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission until 2008. She also served as a mediator for Madagascar as a Member of the negotiation group led by Ecumenical Council of Churches of Madagascar for the resolution of the political deadlock in 2009. She was also a member of the conflict resolution team during the presidential elections of 2005 in the Comoros.



COMESA SECRETARIAT  
COMESA Center  
Ben Bella Road  
P.O. Box 30051  
Lusaka Zambia



+260 211 229 725



[www.comesa.int](http://www.comesa.int)



[info@comesa.int](mailto:info@comesa.int)



[facebook.com/ComesaSecretariat/](https://facebook.com/ComesaSecretariat/)



[@comesa\\_HQ](https://twitter.com/comesa_HQ)



[Comesasecretariat](https://in.linkedin.com/company/comesasecretariat)