

CONFERENCE REPORT



THE 2017 AFRICA PROSPERITY CONFERENCE

Accra, Ghana, September 2017



Pan African Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Distribution: General



THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2017 AFRICA PROSPERITY CONFERENCE

The following list of the main recommendations of the 2017 Africa Prosperity Conference was compiled during the two day meeting held in Accra, Ghana, on September 12 – 13th, 2017. It highlights the business communities' proposals to advance the CFTA. It also provides an opportunity to reflect and bring a critical perspective on Africa's economic potential and challenges.

The meeting's recommendations are:

Engaging the Private Sector

1. PACCI should take the lead to draft the proposal to create the African Trade and Investment Panel (ATIP) that represents the various private sector interests, such as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, business councils, industry associations, and other similar business support organizations established for aggregating and articulating the views of the private sector, identify priority areas and advice to promote economic cooperation and integration in continental policy formulation. The ATIP will be composed of members of the business community, designated by national chambers of commerce in consultation with other equivalent business associations and government agencies.
2. Each national Chamber of Commerce, in consultation with equivalent business organizations and the appropriate government agencies should designate up to three business leaders who will be called to consult or provide inputs to the CFTA negotiations.
3. The PACCI shall serve as Secretariat of ATIP to support the objectives and activities of the Panel. References to the African Trade and Investment Panel should be included in the CFTA.
4. Efforts should be made by PACCI to convene the First African Council on Business before the end of 2018.

Building capacity of continental and regional chambers of commerce

5. Because trade negotiations are currently a highly complex matter that require not only tariff reductions but also technically complex issues such as intellectual property rights, environmental protection, and labor rights, often leading towards re-regulation as well as de-regulation of the economy. Meaningful participation in trade negotiation therefore demands a high level of technical expertise. Governments and international partners should support PACCI, regional chambers and associations to strengthen ties with governments and to assume the role of coordinator for the entire private sector.
6. Governments and business should establish a national focal point in each country for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the CFTA. The private sector should systematically monitor and report the progress of implementing the Continental Free Trade Area.
7. National governments are strongly encouraged to use their national public-private dialogue (PPD) on trade policies, including their national trade facilitation committees, to formalize government-business collaboration and follow the CFTA negotiations.
8. CFTA negotiators should make sure the processes of developing the CFTA take gender into consideration in the whole trade agreements processes.
9. Governments should make sure that gender balance in the CFTA negotiation team is ensured.

10. PACCI in collaboration with partners should organize African women in trade conference – to help business women discover the value of doing business with the CFTA.
11. School environments should rapidly introduce youth to the concept of entrepreneurship and self-employment as a career option. Entrepreneurship education therefore should be sufficiently adopted. Tools, resources and information material to support youth entrepreneurship should be readily available and business should support such programs by providing resources, internships and coaching opportunities.

Trade Facilitation

12. The free movement of natural persons that supply services should be addressed with priority, including through trusted traveler programs, streamlining visa requirements and procedures.
13. The CFTA Rules of Origin and accompanying procedures should be VERY simple and trade-facilitating.
14. PACCI should undertake a study to assess the value of preferential arrangements to the recipient countries, including case studies of selected countries and commodities to determine assistance, including legal support, aimed at helping African exporters to cope with technical standards affecting trade, and to penetrate markets of growing interest such as organic products.
15. In the area of trade facilitation, the CFTA should have commitments relating to opening times for ports, the establishment and maintenance of One Stop Border Stops (OSBPs) and Single Windows, the establishment of authorized operator programs with a view to facilitating regional trade, promoting the use of electronic or on-line processing/procedures, interoperability and sharing of information from customs and other border agencies between African countries.
16. Government should prioritize areas for sanitary and phytosanitary cooperation.
17. PACCI should undertake the mapping of existing national and regional ADR institutions.
18. Private investors should support the growth of coastal shipping to stimulate regional trade.
19. Make sure arbitration is accessible by strengthening institutional support. The Chambers of Commerce provide an excellent footprint for developing such institutions, but require development and support. In addition facilitation (mediation) should be available as the mechanism that resolves most trade disputes.
20. Governments should seriously consider – such as African trade platforms – which can greatly assist in developing and supporting trade, and can effectively embody dispute resolution mechanisms, and assist in overcoming law harmonization problems.

Building productive capacity

21. Governments should make AGOA work by improving its impact by reducing to zero all tariffs on agriculture exports from AGOA-eligible countries.
22. EU-Africa Business Forum should change its current format and focus more on business to business contact or trading between European and African business entities.

Trade finance for intra-African trade

23. African governments should speed up the macroeconomic convergence necessary for a single currency across the entire sub-regions and the continent;
24. Financial institutions should do more to take into account the needs of SMEs when introducing financial system regulations, including making financing rules and procedures related to exports more simple;
25. Financial institutions should do more to rationalize and streamline loan procedures to support SMEs.

I. OPENING AND INTRODUCTION

The African Prosperity Conference (APC) was held in Accra, Ghana on September 12 and 13, 2017. The theme of the Conference was: “The Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA): Exploring Possibilities for Business Engagement Across Africa.”

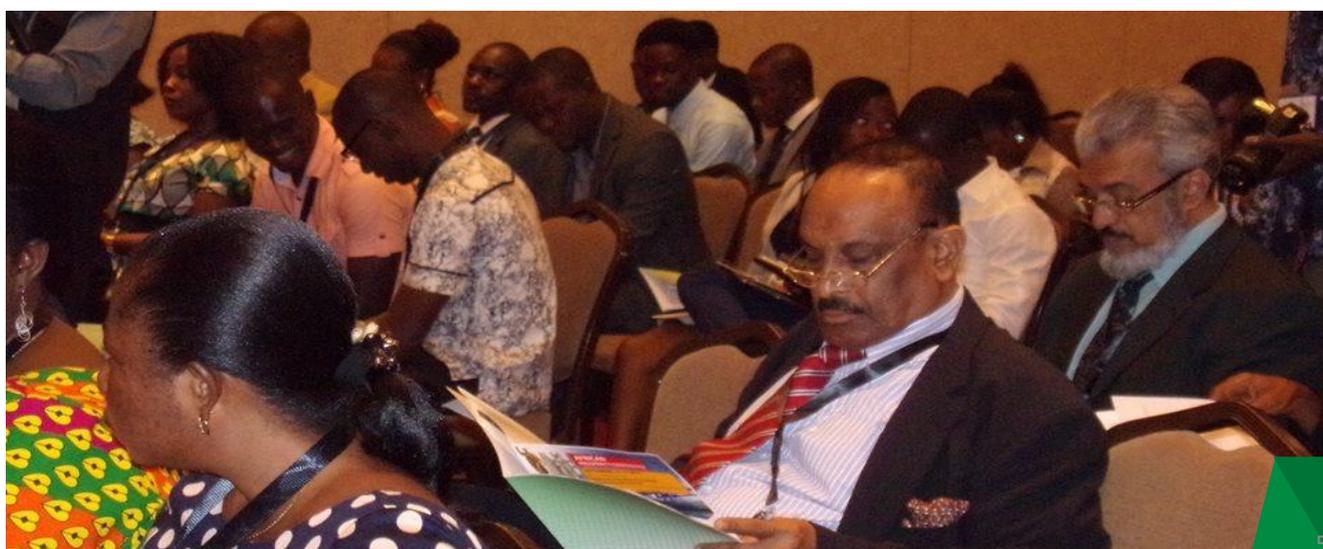
After welcoming delegates, Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankawoso 1st, President of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry and of the Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, noted that the meeting was the first of its kind to be organized by the private sector to better understand the CFTA deal, and review the role of the private sector in legitimating trade agreements and securing support for them at home. He noted that the CFTA is one of the most powerful tools we have to help advance Africa, and called for new forms of collaboration between business and the government.

Ambassador Albert Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry reaffirmed that the negotiations on a legal text establishing the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) will be concluded by December 2017 as decided by the Assembly of the African Union Heads of States and Governments. He explained that “When established, the Continental Free Trade Area will offer immense possibilities for business engagement across Africa. We shall have an integrated market of 55 countries with a combined population of about 1.2 billion people and aggregate gross domestic product of about US\$3.4 trillion... That single step of promoting intra-African trade will reduce costs and increase consumer choice and demand.”

Dr. David Luke, Coordinator of the African Trade policy Center of UNECA, also emphasized the role of the private sector in the implementation of the CFTA. He urged the private sector to be prepared to take advantage of the enlarged continental market provided by the CFTA. He also pointed out that we should ensure that women and youth, who play an important role in informal trade between African countries, are better placed to participate and gainfully benefit from the CFTA.

Alan John Kwadwo Kyerematen, the minister of trade and Industry of the Republic of Ghana gave this year’s keynote speech and used the opportunity to stress the importance of the CFTA. He pointed out that the CFTA is an important agreement that will provide economic and strategic benefits to African countries, and these benefits will expand over time. He added “As Africans, we must stand united to leverage the mutual benefits from creating the ambitious CFTA,”

This report provides a summary of the discussions at the Accra meeting and the recommendations emerging from the meeting.



II. WHERE DO WE STAND WITH THE CFTA NEGOTIATIONS

Regional integration has been embraced by African countries' as an important development strategy since their independence. The continent's development agenda, as championed by the African Union (AU), is based on regional integration including the formation of an African Economic Community (AEC). This was laid out in the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa and the Abuja Treaty of 1991. The Africa regional integration roadmap considers the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as the building blocks of the AEC.

At its 18th Ordinary Session in January 2012 in Addis Ababa, on the theme "Boosting Intra-African Trade," the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU agreed on a roadmap for establishing a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by the indicative date of 2017. Prudence Sebhazi, Chief Technical advisor and Head of the CFTA Unit, stated that African countries remain resolute and ready to sign up to the implementation of the CFTA by the end of the year. He indicated that negotiations to finalize the Modalities for Tariff Liberalization and Trade in Services, including the Texts of the CFTA Agreement are well on track.

Sebhazi pointed out the CFTA will need to address some thorny issues such as technical standards that vary from country to country and custom procedures, movement of business people, competition policy and intellectual property and more, which make it difficult to trade seamlessly with each other. He also indicated the need for constructive engagement with the private sector and civil society to drive the process forward. The private sector must be engaged from the start, including via national and regional chambers of commerce, to understand the process and potential economic benefits from the agreement.

The following points were raised in discussion:

Free movement of people - participants lamented at the strenuous visa requirements to travel within the continent. They provided detailed feedback on the challenges they face for conducting both formal and informal trade. Business members stressed that visa-free regimes promote intra-African trade and investment, facilitate business and create employment opportunities.

Trade facilitation - Participants noted the weak progress made to reduce trade costs and enhance economic competitiveness. They emphasized the need to invest on transport infrastructure and find ways to expedite the movement, release, and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. Many of these measures were already being implemented to varying extents by some African countries. But more needs to be accomplished.

Single currency - Participants said it was worth the effort to start moving towards a single currency and felt that the single currency can provide an important solution to Africa's integration problems. In today's international monetary context, a single currency for most, if not all, African countries can provide the opportunity to pool their monetary resources in order to pursue their common and individual objectives.

A common currency was also the objective of the Organization for African Unity, the predecessor of the AU. The 1991 Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community outlines six stages for achieving a single monetary zone for Africa that were set to be completed by approximately 2028. In the early stages, regional cooperation and integration within Africa would be strengthened, and this could involve regional monetary unions. The final stage involves the establishment of the African Central Bank (ACB) and creation of a single African currency and an African Economic and Monetary Union.

Consultation with business -, participants noted that business should be consulted more regularly in the process of formulating the CFTA, as it is an important lobbyist well placed to influence those institutions charged with the task of ratifying agreements. Business members said that participation by business in the negotiations is valuable, since these negotiations will result in an agreement with positive or negative impacts on business interests.

III. KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

1. Role of regional business associations in advancing the CFTA

During this session the meeting heard about the activities and challenges relating to the implementation of the CFTA from Aminou Akadiry and Charles Kahutu respective CEOs of the East African and West African Chambers of commerce, and Peter Lunenborg, researcher on trade issues. It was noted that in both East and West Africa, business at national level has been more prone to participate in bilateral negotiations than in CFTA negotiations. Regarding trade, governments failed to strengthen links with business, but also to formalize and institutionalize its participation. Regional chambers of commerce had also little influence on the CFTA negotiations, mainly due to their lack of technical expertise and capacity.

Yet in 2012, when the set-up for the CFTA negotiations and implementation was conceptualized by the African Union Secretariat, the private sector was assigned a distinct role, through the establishment of the African Business Council (ABC) to be ‘a necessary continental platform for aggregating and articulating the views of the private sector in the continental policy formulation processes...’ and play an advisory role, communicating its views through the African Union Commission.

The ABC was to be composed of representatives of various private sector interest, with a preference for umbrella or regional bodies, and was expected to be invited to meetings of the Conference of Ministers of Trade in observer capacity. Yet, the private sector was put at some distance to negotiations and implementations – it was at the time not yet contemplated that the envisaged African Business Council would provide direct input to the CFTA negotiation forum (NF) nor the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (an important part of implementation).

Unfortunately, until now the African Business Council has not been operationalized. Furthermore, at the level of the African Union Secretariat there have been limited consultations with the private sector, partly caused of time pressure, due to the looming deadline of 2017 to conclude a legal text that can be presented to AU Member States. African governments might have used their national stakeholder platforms to get inputs and inform their domestic private sector, but anecdotal evidence suggests that the private sector has been involved to limited extent.

In the current draft CFTA legal text, there are no specific provisions on the African Business Council. The trade observatory and the African Trade Forum also did not find their way into the draft text either.

The following points were raised in discussion:

Regional chambers to have increasing role in trade negotiations – Participants emphasized the importance for PACCI and regional chambers and business associations to work closely and coordinate their activities. By partnering with regional chambers of commerce and industry associations around the continent PACCII will have a stronger voice on issues that affect more than just the business community.

Building capacity of chambers of commerce – Many participants pointed out that capacity of chambers of commerce and other business support associations remain very weak, a matter which greatly affected their ability to participate in policy making. Participants felt it was critical to build technical expertise on trade, strengthen ties with the government and increasingly assume the role of coordinator for the entire private sector.

Work closely with PACCI - Several members felt that it would be important to strengthen the work of PACCI, potentially with a wider mandate to examine policy issues that affect a range of trade negotiations. PACCI should be further strengthened with professional experts and start to organize a number of working groups in collaboration with regional chambers of commerce to lobby national governments through personal contacts and relations with national chambers of commerce and other business associations.

2. Dispute-resolution

Addressing this item, Hendrik Kotze, from the Africa Center for Dispute settlement, explained that the instruments for settling disputes between partners are among the elements that determine the overall credibility of any international agreement. In trade agreements, the arrangements for settling disputes between partners are among the elements that determine the overall credibility of any international agreement as an instrument that can be effectively enforced. Moreover, an effectively enforced and recognized dispute settlement mechanism may also help to clarify the interpretation and scope of certain terms and conditions of an agreement, leading to a more coherent implementation.

Provisions for dispute settlement essentially have two objectives. First, they should a priori deter the parties from violating the agreement. This is likely to be the case if the political and economic cost of breaching the agreement is perceived to be greater than the benefits. Second, should a dispute arise over a possible violation, the provisions should prevent the parties concerned from having immediate recourse to protectionist counter measures. Instead, a good dispute settlement mechanism allows for consultation and arbitration, and ensures that sanctions are used only as a measure of last resort.

The following points were raised in discussion:

CFTA dispute resolution mechanism – It was explained that negotiators have developed a 3 tier response mechanisms to resolve trade disputes: The first is a diplomatic response to try and facilitate a solution to the problem; if that does not work, formal arbitration proceedings will be instituted; failing that there will be access to an African Court of Justice. It was also argued that the challenges facing Africa are smaller than eg the European Union, as Africa is only establishing a free trade zone, and not yet aiming for a single market with a customs union, or even a single currency

Making dispute resolution mechanisms more effective - Participants argued that the best approach to dealing with individual disputes should be to first engage in consultation/mediation or arbitration before opting to court litigation. It was pointed out that the CFTA' preference should be for a quasi-judicial model of adjudication as far as trade disputes are concerned.

Challenge for micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) – Kotze noted that the real challenge is developing mechanisms that are accessible for everyday use – especially for MSME traders. The latter are the powerhouse of trade that we want to empower, since the big corporates are already trading. The reality is that MSME's will never be able to access any of these complex mechanisms developed by legal experts. For dispute settlement it's important to think of business processes, developed by and for business. Kotze indicated that EU mechanisms demonstrate that for every 10 000 issues raised at Solvit and EU Advice offices, only about 50 make it to the Courts of Justice. The focus is on maintaining mechanisms that address the 9 950 issues without involving legal processes.

Other regions' experience - Kotze also pointed out that the experience in ASEAN and EU markets show that the latter mechanisms require strong pro-active institutions that are embedded in each country's government. These institutions should have a strong political mandate to address non-compliance with CFT framework (eg in France the Solvit Office sits in the President's Office).

3. Implications of EPA, AGOA and other trade agreements on the CFTA

Currently, many African countries have FTAs in place with the EU (EPA) and the US (AGOA): The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are free trade agreements (FTAs) aimed at creating a free trade area between the EU and ACP countries, in which there are progressively fewer duties on goods imported and exported between these countries. EPAs remain deeply controversial. There are fears they may be undermining the sustainable and long-term development of African countries and their regional integration processes.

As of September 2017, the EPA has entered into force in some Africa countries:

- In West Africa: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana.
- In Southern Africa: SACU Members (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland) and Mozambique (SADC EPA)
- In Central Africa: Cameroon
- In Eastern and Southern Africa: Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar (ESA EPA)

The EAC EPA encompassing Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda (and now also South Sudan) have been concluded but not yet signed. The West Africa EPA covering ECOWAS countries and Mauritania has been signed by all participating African countries except Gambia and Nigeria. Thus both regional EPAs have not yet entered into force.

The EU signed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in 2016 with the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) EPA Group comprising Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. Angola has an option to join the agreement in future.

The remaining members of the SADC region, notably, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe, are negotiating Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU as part of other regional groups, namely Central Africa or Eastern and Southern Africa.

With Northern African countries bordering the Mediterranean, the EU has concluded so-called bilateral 'Association Agreements, with the exception of Libya. In addition, EU has launched dialogues or negotiations towards a 'Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)' with Egypt (2012), Morocco (2013) and Tunisia (2015). A DCFTA would greatly expand the scope of the existing Association Agreement to also include commitments on public procurement, labor, environment, as well as liberalization of trade in services and establishment, among others. As of yet, progress appears to be muted. In the case of Morocco, the last DCFTA negotiation round took place in April 2014. Bilateral negotiations between EU and Egypt on liberalization of trade in services and establishment are on hold. At present most movement appears to take place between EU and Tunisia.

As for the US, the latter has several non-reciprocal trade arrangements which provide for duty-free treatment for (several) goods imported from (some) developing countries, instead of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariff. The relevant schemes for Africa include the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for all developing countries, the GSP for LDCs, and AGOA - the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

AGOA was initially launched in 2000 for a period of 15 years. Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 extended AGOA's expiry date by a further 10 years, to 30 September 2025.

For African LDCs, AGOA essentially offers 254 additional tariff lines compared with the normal US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for all developing countries. These tariff lines include products such as fresh cut roses, tomatoes, cucumbers, citrus fruits and juices, bags, footwear, tableware and wrist watches. In addition, African non-LDCs have duty free access on an additional 1,457 tariff lines which are not duty free under US GSP for all developing countries (but duty free for LDCs).

The following points were raised in discussion:

On the EPA – Many participants felt unclear as to how African businesses would fare under this deal; though quite few sectors would be affected more than others, the real question is how will governments complement the agreement with other measures it's putting in place to support national industries.

US trade and investment policy towards African countries – A participant explained that the US AGOA – will expire in 2015. He contended that the US wants to have FTA with African countries after expiry and move to reciprocal deals. Although AGOA is touted as a success story in many political circles, for business the initiative's impact has been limited. Indeed, in 2008, of the \$81.3 billion worth of exports from AGOA eligible African countries, merchandise valued at \$66.2 billion entered under the AGOA duty-free provisions, reported Brookings. \$9.8 billion of the \$66.2 billion was accounted for by merchandise previously eligible for duty-free access under Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), thus \$56.3 billion worth of trade was directly attributable to the AGOA preferences. Of the AGOA exports, \$52.8 billion of exports (95.7 percent) consisted of energy related products (mainly crude oil). Thus, the real benefits of AGOA to African countries are much lower than what aggregate numbers show—about \$3.5 billion of exports.

Free movement of people and of labor migration – Several business members felt it would be important to operationalize the existing policies and protocols on free movement of people and of labor migration, make easier freedom of movement for business people, and establish agreements on mutual recognition of qualifications.

4. Ensuring that women can participate and thrive with the CFTA

The session focused on a variety of issues including civil society, women business owners and operators, or women business association actors. It was noted that many stakeholders across the public and private sectors were unaware of, or did not have access to sufficient information on CFTA processes; this implied that there was limited dialogue around CFTA negotiation or implementation processes.

At the same time, there is a public awareness that free trade doesn't necessarily benefit everyone, but criticism mainly concerns consumer protection, job security and the anticipated power shift from public institutions to private corporations. However, there are little discussions on the impact of the CFTA on gender equality.

Given that gender equality is elsewhere proclaimed as a founding or core value it will be surprising if it is not taken into account in the CFTA documents. There appears to be a general perception among government authorities that public policy formulation on trade agreements, are a matter for the Government, which explains the limited involvement of the civic population, including women. The following points were raised in discussion:

The following points were raised in discussion:

Neglecting to integrate a gender perspective – Participants believed that it was necessary to take a closer look at how the CFTA will be used to promote the realization of women’s economic rights and the empowerment agenda. Without a deliberate partnership (public-private sector partnerships) between government, business and gender based organizations, trade policies and agreements will remain gender-blind and “neutral”. Decision-makers are not trained to take gender into consideration in the whole trade agreements processes.

Gender perspective – Many participants felt that steps should be taken to ensure political will and commitment to gender sensitive trade policies. Governments should ensure that a gender perspective is included in the negotiation process.

5. CFTA’s potential impacts on youth employment

Africa has an opportunity to turn the ‘youth bulge’ into a demographic dividend that delivers tangible economic and development progress. But at this crucial moment this opportunity is tempered by fear. In particular, fear of economic disruption and inequality. But this is also a moment where, if Africa mobilizes the millions of young people in the continent, Africa stands a genuine chance at progressing towards prosperity.

For many, inequality is driven by unemployment or underemployment. The unemployment rate is driven by faltering economies, labor market transitions, and underemployment that force those with less experience out of contention. The exclusion of youths from the economic market threatens long-term stability, and breeds tension. This is already happening in South Africa and in many other countries. For many African countries the unemployment rate is remarkably high and growing. As a result, many are forced into the informal sector.

Young Africans want to be, and should be part of the solution. They believe that they have the desire to prosper in self-created employment, enterprises and organizations. The starting point always must be inclusive, relevant and quality education, a task that no longer is solely the realm of government thanks to shifting technology landscapes. Inequitable education outcomes that continue to pervade African countries, largely due to geographic and socio-economic status, must become a relic of the past.

The following points were raised in discussion:

Role of the youth – Participants highlighted that the youth represent the future as such all discussions on the CFTA must incorporate the views and aspirations of the youth. Youth formations and organisations must be consulted extensively and their views must be pivotal in negotiations. Even at the chambers level the youth opinions must be solicited.

Building capacity – Several business members suggested the need to promote entrepreneurship opportunities at the national, regional and local level under a multi-stakeholder approach, including the organization of career fairs, summits on opportunities in specific economic sectors. In awarding trade facilitation infrastructure projects, the youth must be prioritised so that they can see the immediate benefits of the CFTA.

Enhancing youth entrepreneurship education and skills – A number of participants argued that training must be central to CFTA. The challenge facing the youth in Africa is lack of skills. Some participants proposed Africa wide skills development training especially in the technical fields, namely information and computer technology, which offer both employment and empowerment for Africa’s youth.

IV. CLOSING

Finally, the President of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry and of the Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankawoso 1st, concluded the meeting by greatly appreciating the hard work of the Secretariat. He said, “We have accomplished a great deal in 2017, and could not have done it without the commitment of the members, the financial support of the UNECA/ATPC and the AU Commission. ”

The theme of the conference: *The Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) - Exploring Possibilities for Business Engagement across Africa.*

SEPTEMBER 12 – 13, 2017

Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City Accra, Ghana September 12th, 2017 September 13th, 2017

September 12, 2017

8.00 – 9.30	Registration – Meeting Space : Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City Accra Coffee / Tea
9.30 – 11.00	<p>Opening Prayer Mrs. Grace Akosua Dzeble</p> <p>Welcome Remarks Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankawosol : President, Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry . Dr. David Luke, Coordinator, African Trade Policy Center, United Nation Economic Commission for Africa.</p> <p>Official message from the African Union H.E. Albert Muchanga, Commissioner, African Union Commission</p> <p>Keynote Address Honorable Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry Republic of Ghana.</p>
11.30 – 12.00	Break
12.00 – 1.15	<p>Critical issues in the negotiations of the Continental Free Trade Area: Where do we stand with the CFTA negotiations [Roundtable]</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Parastus Nepolo, Chairman, Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Prudence Sebahizi, Chief Technical Advisor and Head of the CFTA Unit, African Union Commission</p>
13.15 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 15.30	<p>What Happened at the 6th EU Africa Business Forum</p> <p>Moderator: BatanaiClemenceChikwene, Programme Management Officer (ATPC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. BabajideSodipo, Senior Trade Advisor, African Union Commission</p>

15.40 -17.30 Steps taken by regional business associations to boost trade and investment, and the role of business communities in advancing the Continental Free Trade; **[Roundtable]**

Moderator: Mr. Frederick Alipue, CEO, Afrinvest and Accra Chamber of Commerce

Presenters:

- **Mr. Charles Kahuthu**, Regional Coordinator and CEO, East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
- **Mr. Aminou Akadiri**, Executive Director, Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of West Africa
- **Mr. Peter Lunenborg**, Researcher Trade for Development Programme, South Center
- **Mr. Karl Chokhotho**, Managing Director, CMA CGM Malawi and Zambia President of Malawi Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

September 13, 2017

9.00 - 9.45 In conversation with **Dr. Martha Namundjedo**, Chair, United African Group (Implementation is key to realizing the continental free trade area: keeping it real)

9.45 – 11.45 Time for establishing an investment disputes settlement for Africa **[Roundtable]**

Moderator:
Mr. Marco Francis, Chairman, AAA International Services

Presenter:
Dr. Hendrik Kotze, Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement, University of Stellenbosch Business School

Review the implications of EPA, AGOA, and other trade investment in the CFTA **[Roundtable]**

Moderator:
Mr. Kipprono Kittony, Chairman, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Presenters:

- **Mr. Peter Lunenborg**, Researcher Trade for Development Programme, South Center
- **Mr. Charles DeBow**, Vice- President, National Black Chamber of Commerce
- **Mr. Harry Alford**, President, National Black Chamber of Commerce
- **Ms. Divine Ndhlukula**, Managing Director, Securico, President, Zimbabwe Chamber of Commerce and Industry

11.45 – 12.15 **Break**

12.15 – 13.30 Women as agent of economic change: Ensuring women can participate and thrive with the CFTA **[Roundtable]**

Presenters:

- **Mrs. Olive Kigongo**, Chairperson, Amagara Skin Care, Managing Director Homes Ltd, Director MOSA Court Apartments, Director Green Hills Farm Ltd. President Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- **Mrs. Kate Papafio**, CEO, Reroy Company

- **Mrs. Brukty Tigabu**, CEO and Cofounder Whiz Kids Workshop.
- **Mr. Christopher Foster**, President, Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture

13.30– 14.30 **Break**

14.30 – 15.30

The CFTA's potential impacts on industrial activity and youth employment **[Roundtable]**

Moderator:

Mr. Auanli Bhaiji, Regional Director, Bollore Transport and Logistics LTD, President of Federation of East Africa Freight Forwarder Association

Presenters:

- **Mr. Toufiq Salim Turkey**, President, Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.
- **Mr. Alhaji Sanusi Maijamaa**, Vice President, Nigerian Association Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture.
- **Mr. Julião Dimande**, CEO, Managing Director, Shossi Comercio, President, Mozambique Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Dr. Fred Kyei Asamoah**, Executive Director, COTVET

15.30– 16.00 **Break**

16.00 – 17.45

Business priorities for the CFTA negotiations – Recommendations **[Plenary]**

Moderator:

Dr. David Luke, Coordinator, African Trade Policy Center, United Nation Economic Commission for Africa.

Closing Remarks

Honorable Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Ghana

Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankawoso, President of Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Benin	<p>Mrs. Codojoalabi Awahou President, Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry Owner, AWA Fish Company</p>
Burundi	<p>Mr. Audace Ndayizeye President, Burundi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Owner, ANS Petroleum SPRL</p>
Congo Brazaville	<p>Dr. Jean Galessamy Ibombot Vice President, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Congo Brazaville Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, GIGI Import Export</p>
Cote D'Ivoire	<p>Mr. Serge Diedier Media House Africa</p>
Democratic Republic of Congo	<p>Mr. Frederic Muleba President, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Inde-Congo</p>
Djibouti	<p>Mohammed Ali Hassan Deputy Secretary General, Djibouti Chamber of Commerce</p>
Ethiopia	<p>Dr. Jara Sema CEO, Finifine Medical Services Board member, Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Ms. Brukty Tigabu Chief Executive Officer, Whiz Kids Workshop</p>
Ghana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankawoso President, Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2. Honorable Alan Kyerematen Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana 3. Mr. Frederick Alipui Chief Executive Officer, Afrinvest Consult Ltd 4. Mr. Fred Kyei Asamoah Executive Director, COTVET 5. Mr. Farouk Boumaza Deputy Ambassador, Algerian Embassy 6. Olaide Mayowa Jose Aje Moneta Company Ltd 7. Mr. Kingsford Atawunde Chief Executive Officer, Greenagro Enterprise 8. Mr. Aloysius Agbavittor Managing Director, Jubilee Tours 9. Mr. Joseph Hayford SME and Consumer Finance, Unicredit

Ghana

- 10. Mr. Kofi Agyapong**
Chief Executive Officer, K&E Agyapong Co. Ltd.
- 11. Gabriel S Kakeke Shaanika**
Deputy Head of Mission of Namibia
- 12. Samirat Ntiازه**
Publication Director
Hommes d'Afrique Magazine
- 13. Sam Poku**
Board Chairman, IMANI
- 14. Hosephine Doegah**
General Manager, Empower Suites
- 15. Sulemanu Koney**
Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Chamber of Mines
- 16. Julius Bradford Lamptey**
Head of Research & Advocacy, Ghana Chamber of Commerce
- 17. Mohamed Ismail**
Head of Commercial Office , Embassy of Egypt
- 18. Estevao Jai**
Secretary ,Embaixada Da Republica De Angola
- 19. Philomena Appiah**
Managing Director, Global Garments& Textiles
- 20. Cecilia Karl-Asare**
Chief Executive Officer, Ce-Karl Investment Ghana Ltd
- 21. Cosmos Victor Bondzie**
Vice Chairman, Tema Region, Ghana National Chamber of Commerce
- 22. Abudey Selorm Jerome**
CEO/ Managing Director, AJA budey Investment Company Ltd.
- 23. Dr. Said Boakye**
Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- 24. Shehu Adam Wumbei**
Director, Smice International
- 25. John Adda Abuga**
Manager, Ghana Free Zones Board
- 26. Claver Bationo Second Counselor**
Embassy of Burkina Fasso in Accra, Ghana
- 27. Eric Osahene Kofi Boadi**
Chairman Emeritus, Ubuntu Group
- 28. Gustav Quayson**
Country Brand Development Manager,Hugo Commodities
- 29. Aissatou Seck Deuzieme**
Conseiller Republic of Senegal
- 30. Boubou Mahaman Rabiu**
Second Councillor, Embassy of the Republic of Niger in Ghana
- 31. Frederick Amo Atakora Champion**
de la Chaine de Valeur, Ecobank Ghana
- 32. Stephane Miezan**
Chairman, Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 33. Albert Ankrah**
Business Development Manager, Jospong Group of Companies

Kenya	<p>Mr. Charles Kahuthu Chief Executive Officer /Reg Director, East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture</p> <p>Mr. Kipprono Kittony Chairman, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chief Executive Officer, Capital Realtime</p>
Madagascar	<p>Ms. ANDRIAMAMONJIARISON Joséphine Soanorondriaka President, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie d'Antananarivo Chief Executive Officer, Hermes Conseils</p>
Malawi	<p>Mr. Karl Chokhotho President, Malawi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Managing Director, CMA CGM Shipping Agency Limited Company</p>
Morocco	<p>Mr. Mohammed Dirissi Vice President, Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>Mr. Ibrahim Mahammadou Amadou Media House Africa</p>
Mozambique	<p>Mr. Juliao Dimande President, Mozambique Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO/Owner, Jhossi Comercio</p>
Namibia	<p>Mr. Parastus Nepolo Chairman Windhoek Branch, Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>Ms. Martha Namundjebo Chair, United African Group</p>
Nigeria	<p>Ms. Lyalode Alba Lawson President, Nigerian Association of Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO/Owner, LAWSON Group of Schools</p> <p>Mr. Aminou Akadiri Executive Director, Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce & Industry</p>
Seychelles	<p>Marco L. Francis Representative, Seychelles Chamber of Commerce Chairman AAA International Services</p>
Sierra Leone	<p>Mr. Christopher Forster President, Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industries and agriculture General Manager, Picton Services (sl) Ltd</p>
Somali Land	<p>Mr. Abdirashid Hussein Director of External Relation and Promotion, Somaliland Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p>
South Africa	<p>Dr. Hendrik Kotze Senior Researcher Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement, at the University of Stellenbosch Business School</p> <p>Mr. Albert Mandizvidza Chief Executive Officer, Peakford Management Consultants</p>

Tanzania	Mr. MeshackKulwa Ezekiel Vice president, Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Togo	Mr. Gbikpi Date Yao Representative, Togo Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Zambia	Mr. Michael Nyirenda President, Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry Senior Instructor, UPCLLOUD Training
Zimbabwe	Ms. Divine Ndhlukula President, Zimbabwe Chamber of Commerce and Industry Managing Director, Securico Security Services
AU Commission	H.E Albert Commissioner Muchanga Commissioner, Trade and Industry- African Union Commission Mr. Babajide Sodipo Senior Trade Advisor, African Union Commission
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