



Tradequity

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SADC Summit Closes as Union of Comoros becomes a New Member

The 37th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government, which came to a close in Pretoria, South Africa on August 20, 2017 has welcomed the Union of Comoros as a new member of SADC. The theme of the 37th SADC Ordinary Summit for 2017 was ‘Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains’.

The inclusion of the Union of Comoros brings the number of Member States of the SADC region to 16. The assessment of the application by the Republic of Burundi is still ongoing.

The Summit bid farewell to Botswana President Lieutenant General Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama and Angola President José Eduardo dos Santos, respectively. Meanwhile, the Summit has urged the Member States to operationalise the 2017 theme through implementation of projects, which are in line with the focus areas.

Areas, which Member States have been directed to focus on include agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, energy, pharmaceuticals – for boosting skills to enhance regional integration and to create mechanism for the involvement of the private sector.

This is encompassed in a Communique of the 37th Summit of Heads of State and Government read by the SADC Executive Secretary, Stergomena Lawrence Tax at the close of the Pretoria Summit.

On improvement of energy in the region, the Summit directed that a regional natural gas committee can be constituted to promote the inclusion of gas in the regional energy mix for industrial development.



Moreover, the Summit has noted that the high prevalence of HIV and AIDS, especially in adolescents and young people, is fuelled by drug abuse. The Summit, therefore, directed the Secretariat to urgently develop a comprehensive regional strategy to deal with drug abuse and cyber-crime.

Furthermore, regarding continental integration, SADC leaders emphasised that the objectives of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) should find expression in the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA).

The TFTA is an agreement between the SADC, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and East African Community (EAC). There are 20 signatories, but Egypt is the only country, which has ratified it. The agreement will come into force once ratified by 14 countries.

The CFTA is expected to create a single continental market for goods and services with free movement of people, business and services, and thus boost intra-Africa trade.

The ongoing Phase I of the negotiations is about trade in goods and services, while the Phase II will negotiate intellectual property, competition policy and investment issues.

So far, the SADC signed three legal instruments, which came out of the 37th

SADC Summit. Amongst these was the protocol for the protection of new varieties of plants in the SADC region.

President of Zambia, Lungu signed the amended protocol on gender and development at the close of the Summit amid calls through the Summit for Member States to make efforts to reach 50:50 gender parity in political and decision-making positions in the public service.

In his closing statement – SADC Chairperson and South Africa President, Jacob Zuma said that the Summit theme aims to ensure realisation of industrialisation to develop the region. He pointed out that the Member States have lived up to the principles of democracy, peace and security and rule of law.

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Poor Non-oil Sector Growth



The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has said that the Ghana Government should develop the non-oil sector of the economy, which has remained subdued, after oil production from the Jubilee and TEN fields boosted growth to 6.6 percent in the first quarter of 2017.

Oil production within the period under review increased by 58.9 percent year-on-year. While the non-oil sector only grew by 3.9 percent, as against the 6.3 percent recorded in the same period last year. The Executive Director of IFS, Professor Newman Kusi said the decline in the output of the non-oil sector is due to slowdown of its activities. (B&FT, 28. 07.17)

Ghana Open Data Initiative

Ghana President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has expressed his Government's resolve to promote the availability of data and information to enhance opportunity for economic development and creation of jobs in the area of digital technology for the youth. In line with that objective, he said that the nation has committed a budget to revamp the Ghana Open Data Initiative.

The President noted that the Government intended to achieve this through the implementation of policy intervention and guidelines to ensure that the use of Open Data was promoted across the country. (www.graphic.com.gh, 25.07.17)

Steady Growth in EAC

East Africa's industrial performance has in recent years stood above the global average, according to the EAC Industrial Competitiveness Report 2017. It states that these growth rates, as measured by the Manufacturing Value Added (MVA), fall short of some of the targets set in the EAC industrialisation policy.

The report mentioned that the past 10-15 years have shown signs of upward convergence among Partner States in terms of MVA, with Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda growing significantly faster than Kenya. Agro-processing, together with apparel and leather sectors, contributed to 40 percent of manufactured exports in 2014 – growing at double digit rates, above the 5 percent average growth of all manufacturing sectors. (TEA, 15.08.17)

ZDA Act Amendment

The Zambian Government has commenced the revision of the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) Act to ensure reduced entry fees into the Multi Facility Economic Zones (MFEZ) for local firms. This followed complaints from stakeholders that the entry fees for the MFEZ, which was currently at US\$500,000 was too high for local Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) in the country.

Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister of Zambia, Margaret Mwanakatwe said the Ministry was revising the ZDA Act that will see the amendment of entry fees for the MFEZ, and the development of the MFEZ aimed at making Zambia competitive through increased trade and manufacturing sector. (ToZ, 27.09.17)

Copper Price & Kwacha Recovery

Investors are overlooking Zambia's political risk and buying the nation's assets as the price of copper, its biggest export, rises. Copper prices are at their highest in more than two years. The metal accounts for about 70 percent of Zambia's export earnings.

The yield on Zambia's US\$1bn Eurobonds due April 2024 have fallen 135 basis points in 2017 to 7.55 percent. The southern African nation's currency has appreciated 12 percent against the dollar in 2017, making the *kwacha* – the continent's best performer after Mozambique's metical.

(<https://zambiareports.com>, 28.07.17)

State Promotes Cassava

The Agriculture Ministry has moved to promote commercial production of *cassava* in maize and wheat growing areas as army worms and erratic weather cut production of the two staple food crops.

The Cabinet Secretary of Agriculture (Kenya), Willy Bett said the Ministry has partnered with Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, to distribute improved *cassava* tuber varieties to smallholder farmers through a community-based seed system.

With climatic change as an emerging phenomenon and its consequences, root and tuber crops offer choices and opportunities as they exhibit higher tolerance to variety of stresses, such as water and heat. (BD, 14.07.17)

Sign of Unstable Economy

Patriots for Economic Progress (PeP) President Sean Enock Tembo opines that the Zambian Finance Minister, Felix Mutati's statement that the economy has stabilised is theoretical because the levels of unemployment in Zambia are shocking.

Mutati said the country's economy has stabilised, affirming Zambians will soon see an improvement even in the inflation rate. Green Party President Peter Sinkamba has criticised Finance Minister Felix Mutati's statement that the economy has improved. Sinkamba cited the closure of some banks in the country as an indication that the economy has shrunk.

(LT, 20.09.17)

GVCs and Africa

The Global Value Chain Development Report 2017, published by the World Bank and World Trade Organisation, analyses trends around global value chains (GVCs) and their impact on international trade.

The report defines GVCs as production processes in which different countries participate in carrying out different stages of production, account for two-thirds of global trade in value-added terms.

To address Africa's low participation in GVCs, the report recommends that developing countries should strive to reform institutions and provide equitable protection of rights, increase enforceability of contracts, ensure more transparency, make efficient customs processes and encourage financial deepening.

(http://www.worldbank.org, 06.07.17)

Urge for Removing NTBs

Kenyan and Tanzanian businesses called for elimination of various non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that slow down trade between the two countries. A consultative meeting between the Tanzania Private Sector Federation and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance noted that Kenyan exporters of cement, edible oils, cigarettes and other products encounter restrictions on entry into Tanzania while Tanzanian dairy traders find it difficult to export to Kenya.

"There is a need to facilitate administrative processes on movement of goods, including clearance at border points", said trade lobbies in a joint communiqué.

(TEA, 07.08.17)

Zambia to Tap SA Market

Zambia has been challenged to 'up its game' to tap into the South African (SA) market if it is to get fully benefited from trading with that country. The challenge by South Africa's High Commissioner to Zambia, Sikose Mji, comes in the wake of the continued trade imbalance between the two countries in favour of South Africa.

Zambia Development Agency estimates that in 2015, Zambia only exported goods worth US\$534mn while South Africa exported goods worth US\$2.6bn. Besides, in May, Zambia's exports to South Africa accounted for 5.5 percent of the total export earnings.

(DM, 26.07.17)

ECOWAS Trade Barriers

Commissioner for Infrastructure at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, Dr Antoinette G Weeks stated that the corridors of the sub-region are riddled with too many physical and soft barriers, which are a drawback on the integration agenda.

The ECOWAS Commission believes that it is the collective responsibility of the individuals appointed by the governments to contribute in making significant improvements in advancing the region's transport and trade sectors, Weeks mentioned. She also said that bad transport networks within the sub-region are affecting intra-regional trade and free movement.

(B&FT, 27.09.17)

End of Two-Year Trade Deficit

Zambia recorded a trade surplus valued at K410.6mn in July 2017 after about two years of being in deficits as the inflation rate dropped further to 6.3 percent. The trade surplus entails that the country exported more than it imported in July 2017.

Central Statistical Office (CSO) attributes the increase to the improved copper price on the London Metal Exchange (LME) trading at US\$6,808.50 a tonne and increased production by the mines. CSO Director of Census and Statistics John Kalumbi said Zambia's copper exports significantly increased from 81,489 tonne in June 2017 to 94,851 tonne in July 2017.

(DM, 01.09.17)

Push for CFTA

Alan Kyeremanten, the Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana said that the CFTA has become an extremely important strategy for development across the regions of the world.

The CFTA is to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus, pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Continental Customs Union and the African customs union. It is also to expand intra African trade through better coordination of trade liberalisation and facilitation regimes and instruments across Africa in general.

(B&FT, 27.09.17)

'Paperless' Trade in Ports

A comprehensive study on Ghanaian seas and airports has revealed the need for the country to quicken up pace for implementation of the paperless policy to improve efficiency. The research report produced by the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI) provided detailed analysis of the situation at Ghana's three main port facilities.

The study was undertaken in response to the growing concerns of business community about the difficulty of doing business at the ports and the use of findings for advocacy for easing constraints faced by importers and exporters.

(GNA, 25.08.17)

Africa Trade to Continue under AGOA Deal

The US is determined to deepen trade with Sub-Sahara Africa following assurances that the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) deal is safe under Trump administration.

While a dark cloud has been hanging over AGOA since Trump became the US President, the US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer assured African countries that the US is committed to stronger and sustainable relationship with Africa through free, fair and reciprocal trade.

Lighthizer said the US is determined to achieve deeper commercial trade engagement with Africa. Moreover, by lowering barriers and tackling other constraints that are hindering trade and investment, US-Africa trade is bound to flourish.

(TEA, 16.08.17)



WISUG Upset over VAT Flat Rate

Members of the Trade Union – Wholesalers, Importers and Shop Owners Union of Ghana (WISUG) have complained bitterly about the 3 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) flat rate, claiming that the new move has contributed to high cost of duties at the port. Ghana Government, in July 2017, directed that the new VAT 3 percent flat rate will be implemented.

The move is in pursuance of the Ghana Government's policy to widen the tax net by roping in more taxpayers, especially retailers and wholesalers who hitherto did not meet the VAT's current threshold of GH¢200,000. *(B&FT, 18.09.17)*

Restrict Foreign Trade Vessels

The Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA) is working towards the promulgation of legislation that seeks to reserve trading activities within Ghanaian waters exclusively to Ghanaian registered vessels. The law will restrict the use of foreign vessels in the country's domestic coastal trade and promote development of indigenous maritime business.

The Director General of the GMA, Kwame Owusu said the authority was set to begin stakeholder consultations on the legislation. The event, celebrated globally to draw attention for developing and implementing maritime strategies, was on the theme: 'Connecting Ships, Ports and People'. *(DG, 29.09.17)*

Low COMESA intra-trade

According to COMESA the intra-trade ratio does not reflect an attractive position despite efforts put in place to remove barriers to facilitate increased free trade within the region. Currently, COMESA intra-trade marginally declined

from US\$9.95bn in 2013 to US\$9.20bn in 2015.

COMESA's acting Secretary General Kipyego Cheluget said trade among regional Member States is still low, hence, several measures have been put in place to address the issue. Cheluget, however, said COMESA trade is still dominant, and mainly with the European Union, China and America among others. *(DM, 18.09.17)*

Harmonising Mining Policies

Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA has urged the Member States to fast track harmonisation of policies in the mining industry to make the sector more competitive and profitable. According to Ngenya, the sector's potential can be sustainably harnessed through establishment of governance structures, and leveraging on the existing multinational trade agreements.

Sound institutional frameworks will enable COMESA's national and sub-national governments to have a say in decisions regarding use of resources located in their territories including minerals if they harmonise policies regulating the sector. *(NT, 12.09.17)*

More Egypt-Zambia Trade

Egyptian Foreign Affairs Minister Sameh Shoukry said that his country desires to increase trade and investments with Zambia. Shoukry said his country was looking for more investment opportunities in Zambia.

He hailed the excellent relations existing between the two countries, and renewed Cairo's invitation for President Edgar Lungu to undertake a State visit to that country. Shoukry asked his Zambian

counterpart Harry Kalaba to join him in Cairo to prepare for the State visit of President Lungu. This is according to a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Tourism at the Zambian Embassy in Ethiopia Ing'tu Mwanza. *(LT, 03.07.17)*

Reduced NTBs in EAC

EAC Partner States have made progress in the elimination of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), doing away with 116 of these in the past eight years. Between 2009 to May 2017, they have also introduced 20 new ones and resolved three, while 17 remain unresolved.

Burundi is the only Partner that did not impose any NTBs on goods originating from the EAC in the past six months, a new NTB time-bound elimination report revealed. The report indicates that Uganda eliminated the highest number of NTBs (seven) followed by Tanzania (four), Kenya (three) and Rwanda (one) between December 2016 and May 2017. *(TEA, 21.09.17)*

Tullow Oil to Invest in Zambia

British High Commissioner to Zambia, Fergus Cochrane-Dyett OBE has welcomed the launch of Zambia's first ever oil and gas exploration survey by Tullow Oil, a UK company with its Headquarters in London.

Cochrane-Dyett said, "British companies like Tullow Oil represent reliable partners for Zambia because they are covered by UK legislation that binds them to the highest standards". He also said that Zambia needs private sector investment from local and international companies, to win the battle against poverty, create jobs, and bring prosperity to all Zambians. *(LT, 15.08.17)*

Uniform Cargo Tracking for EAC



The East African trading bloc is set to adopt a uniform cargo tracking system as conflicting technologies being used are cited for border delays between Kenya and Tanzania. Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda use a joint real-time Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) while Tanzania has a mobile-based digital scheme.

The incompatible technologies are responsible for delays at border points, raising the cost of transporting goods in the region. Every truck passing through Tanzania has to fix a permanent device that costs US\$1,000. The ECTS enables real time tracking of transit cargo from Mombasa port to its destination through an online platform monitored in the three countries. *(BD, 26.09.17)*

ECOWAS Standard Harmonisation

Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) hosted an ECOWAS Commission (EC) standard harmonisation workshop, which aimed at reviewing and finalising critical draft standards that would promote sustainable economic development in the sub-region.

'The ECOWAS Standards Harmonisation Model (ECOSHAM) Technical Management Committee Meeting' examined the harmonisation work by national experts in the chemical product sector, building and construction sector and in the tourism services within participating countries.

Experts from Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Liberia, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Niger, Mali, Togo, and Guinea participated in the event. *(B&FT, 26.07.17)*

Urgent Regional Integration

African officials called for urgent infrastructural development and regional integration to boost the continent's economy. At the 'Infrastructure Africa 2017 Summit' in August 2017 in Johannesburg, Zambian Minister of Finance Felix Mutati encouraged Africans to speedily address infrastructural deficit.

To address this deficit, the Government needs to define the roles of private sector and public sector accordingly. It must not monopolise investment in infrastructure but instead develop further clarity on the question of the participation of the private sector and nature of partnerships that need to be developed with the private sector.

(http://news.xinhuanet.com, 22.08.17)

EAC Industrial Development

A new regional industrial competitiveness report has called for increased efforts to boost industrial development in the EAC region, particularly through design and implementation of well-ground strategies and action plans, in order to achieve industrialisation objectives at both regional and EAC Partner State level.

Exploiting opportunities offered a dynamic EAC market and diversifying and upgrading through realistic, well-defined and comprehensive strategies are some of the relevant and concrete policy

Take Advantage of ECOWAS Market

Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana said that the Government is looking at both internal and external strategies to reform the economy and market its goods and services.

She expressed the belief that the ECOWAS, with a population of 350 million, could provide that leverage to accomplish its objectives. "As a nation one of our strategies is to capture the ECOWAS market to sell our goods and services because we cannot just look at the 27 million population of Ghana but look beyond", Botchwey added.



(GNA, 02.09.17)

recommendations listed in the report. Other efforts include strengthening of forward and backward linkages to boost industrial and overall economic growth.

(NT, 21.08.17)

ECOWAS Pharma Market

The Senior Minister of Ghana, Yaw Osafo Maafo, has asked rallied Ghanaian pharmaceutical companies to take advantage of the ECOWAS sub-region's huge market to expand. He indicated that enormous opportunities existed in the sub-regional market, which they needed to fully exploit to substantially increase their product lines.

Osafo Maafo pointed out that the pharmaceutical industry held tremendous potential for the nation's economy and underlined the government's unswerving determination to provide the needed support for its optimal performance. He said it was for this reason that it had introduced a number of stimulus packages for the sector. *(GNA, 04.08.17)*

Zimbabwe Trade Deficit Widens

The trade deficit between Zimbabwe and South Africa widened by 15 percent to US\$131mn in the first seven months of the year, latest trade data from the Statistics Agency shows.

The data reveals that Zimbabwe exported goods worth US\$1,1bn to South Africa between January and July 2017 against imports of US\$1,3bn, giving a trade deficit of US\$131mn.

The country's reliance on imports remains high despite government measures to control imports as the local industry remains in quandary.

The country's major import markets in the period under review were Singapore (US\$706mn), China (US\$306mn), Mozambique (US\$75mn), Japan (US\$70mn), India (US\$60mn) and Mauritius (US\$59mn). *(ND, 30.08.17)*

PIATA to Benefit EAC

East African countries are among the beneficiaries of a new multibillion agricultural funding programme aimed at increasing incomes and improving food security of 30 million households in 11 African countries by 2021.

Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda are among the priority countries set to benefit from the Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA), which will provide up to US\$280mn.

The project, launched at the 2017 African Green Revolution Forum, will allow partners to complement efforts and leverage on their networks for greater impact. *(TEA, 13.09.17)*

Land use Policies for Kenya

Kenya cannot continue to silently face food security crisis while most of our arable part of the country is being converted into settlements or being subdivided communally into units that do not support any form of agricultural enterprise.

Land provides key resource base for development and food production. Generally, agriculture is the main source of food and feed related products. Without proper land use policies, Kenya will never be able to move from the current situation but will stagnate at its downward spiral that is consuming its agricultural potential.

While technology has increased productivity, appropriate application of these technologies on land is the key to production maximisation. (BD, 22.08.17)

Consumer Protection Directive

The Ghana Civil Aviation Authority is to finalise a consumer protection directive that would protect the interest and farewell of airline passengers. Ghana has ratified the Montreal Convention of 1999, which deals with passenger rights and protection.

The draft passenger rights and consumer protection directive will address consumer protection issues and set out types of compensation for overbooking, denied boarding, delays and cancellation of flights among others.

Joyce Anakwa Thompson, Director, Legal, International Relations/Communication at Ghana said the compensation will take different forms including rerouting, issues of hotels, phone calls, etc. (GNA, 30.09.17)

Harmful Substandard Products

The Zambia Weights and Measures Agency (ZWMA) has expressed concern at the growing number of unlabelled and underweight products on the market.

ZWMA's Public Relations Officer, Mutale Chileshe indicated that the only right of consumers is to get the right quantity of the products they purchase and traders should ensure that the products they stock measure to the weight indicated on the package.

The Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) is committed of taking out substandard products off the market and sensitising the consumer on the dangers of buying such products. (LT, 19.09.17)

Petition to Review Fuel Tax

The Chamber of Petroleum Consumers (COPEC) has petitioned President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to review some of the tax components in the petroleum Price build-up to bring relief to the citizens.

The petition stated that the rising fuel prices in the country had a direct impact on the general cost of living and inflation. Among a tall list of demands, COPEC requested accountability of the use of the road fund levy of 40 *pesewas* charged per litre of fuel to know what the fund had generated so far since it was increased from eight *pesewas* to 40 *pesewas*.

(DG, 29.09.17)

Vodafone-MTN Fiasco

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has received a receipt of a press query with regard to the alleged refusal by Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) to allow City of Lusaka to use the Woodlands Stadium.

The allegation is that FAZ has conveyed to the City of Lusaka not to use Woodlands Stadium because it is branded with Vodafone, the sponsors of City of Lusaka.

According to FAZ, the presence of the Vodafone brand is in violation of the sponsorship that FAZ has with MTN Zambia as the official sponsors of the Zambian Super Division League.

(LT, 07.09.17)

Cheap Maize Imports Flood Market

Farmers in Kenya are staring at a possible lack of market for their maize as the harvesting season approaches due to a surplus of the grain caused by the Government subsidy.



While consumers have been enjoying low flour prices since May 2017 when the Kenyan Government opened doors for duty free maize, some farmers have found themselves competing for markets for their grain with cheaper imports.

Farmers' fear that millers might have taken advantage of the Government subsidy to stockpile, which causes a glut when the duty free importation subsidy ends.

(SD, 21.08.17)

Airtel-Tigo Merger

The National Communications Authority (NCA) has given approval for the merger between Bharti Ghana Limited (Airtel) and Millicom Ghana Limited (Tigo), to proceed subject to some conditions.

The merger, which was first announced in March 2017, required the regulator to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the application and the regulatory ecosystem.

The merged entities would have to submit a network integration plan to the NCA. The NCA wishes to assure all stakeholders, especially consumers, that their various interests will be protected and that the Authority will endeavour to maintain stability within the industry.

(DG, 02.10.17)

PACT EAC-2nd Regional Annual Meeting *Roadmap for Future Policy Initiatives*



The Regional Annual Meeting (RAM-2) of Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade Linkages in the East African Community (PACT-EAC) held in Kigali, Rwanda. The aim of the RAM-2 was to review the ongoing and upcoming policy efforts geared towards making agro-processing more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-oriented in East Africa. Two years into the PACT EAC-2 Project, stakeholders in five countries are engaging policymakers through advocacy campaigns.

The main objectives of the Regional Annual Meeting were as following:

- Learn about ongoing policy efforts geared towards making agro-processing more climate-aware, trade-driven and enhancing food security in East Africa.
- Raise awareness about the following EAC interventions for agro-industry development
- Share good practices with other experts from EAC, regional and international organisations, and help trade and climate change negotiators to develop a pluri-disciplinary thinking for holistic policy solutions.

Besides sharing good practices and policy options, regional experts were also briefed about the status of current multilateral trade and climate negotiations, where important international conferences will take place in 2017. The still infant agro-processing industry in East Africa has been earmarked as having huge potential for poverty reduction, growth and regional integration.

Moreover, the region's success in realising this potential will partly depend on its ability to factor in the ever-increasing challenges posed by climate change, and work in synergy with its own trade agenda.

Rebecca Ygberg Amayra from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) expressed her gratitude to CUTS International, Nairobi for its leadership in the project as well as for partnering with Sida. Sida's interventions on East Africa's regional trade will focus on the areas of trade policy capacity building.

Rashid Kaukab, Director, CUTS Geneva expounded on the project objectives that are about linkages on important issues of climate change, food security and trade, which should influence coherent policy approaches in the EAC. The project design and implementation is organic in nature and has consciously taken a life of its own with the capacity to continue evolving.

Knowledge growth and sharing are at the core of the project, which also covers the international dimension through support to important negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO); and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

With regard to extending the programme to other regions, CUTS Nairobi has already developed a proposal for undertaking the work in West Africa, as the sub-region is also facing similar challenges related to trade, climate and food security. The linkages between those

sectors are not always reflected relevantly/holistically into the ECOWAS members' policies and strategies.

The proposed project will be geared towards: (1) Raising awareness of West-African stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society, etc.) on Climate Change Food Security-Trade (CCFST) interlinkages issues; (2) Finding ways to enhance policy coordination amongst a multitude of players and areas; (3) Better implementing of existing international treaties and regional policies effectively at the ECOWAS level; and (4) Leveraging the opportunity for private and public stakeholders to advocate for an ECOWAS Common Trade Policy conscious of the CCFST.

Flavia Munaaba, Former Minister of State for Environment of Uganda expressed her satisfaction with the achievement made under the Project so far, and as a member of the Project Advisory Committee, she was proud to note that the project is on track.

According to Munaaba, the success attained by the project so far is due to the following factors: (1) Establishing strong partnerships between government, media, civil society, academia and private sector among others; (2) Commitment and hard work in particular, and devotion of CUTS implementation team; and (3) Persistently dealing with challenges. Munaaba expressed her confidence to witness more successes by the following Annual Meeting.

ReguLetter

The July-September 2017 issue of the newsletter carries cover story entitled 'Why is Apple differentiating between India-China?' as its cover story, which states that the latest flavour in the mobile industry is iPhone X. Its manufacturer, Apple, is leaving no stones unturned in ensuring the global success of its flashy new smartphone. It is safe to assume that Apple will devote equal attention to the world's largest telecom markets: China and India. However, the company seems to be differentiating between two peas in a pod, when it comes to regulatory and policy compliance in these two countries. A special feature opines that banking the unbanked is crucial to any effort designed to result in shifting from informal to formal mechanisms.

http://www.cuts-ccier.org/pdf/reguletter_Jul-Sept2017.pdf



Joint ACP-UNCTAD Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking

The Joint African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)-UNCTAD Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking have been approved by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels.

The non-binding Principles were jointly developed by the UNCTAD and the ACP Secretariats after consultation with ACP Members States and regional organisations. The Joint Principles draw on UNCTAD's Core Principles set out in UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and build on key ACP policy documents, notably the Georgetown Agreement establishing the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the Declaration of the 8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government of the ACP Group of States, the Strategic Framework for ACP Private Sector Development.

The Joint ACP-UNCTAD Principles come at a time when countries are re-orienting their national and international investment policies in line with today's sustainable development. Recent developments in national and international investment policies will be discussed during the September 12, 2017 session of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board, Palais des Nations, Geneva as well as during UNCTAD's Annual International Investment Agreements Conference at Palais des Nations, Geneva from October 09-11, 2017.

<http://investmentpolicyhub.unctad.org/News/Calendar/Home/550>

Our Twitter Handle (@cutsafrica)



@cutsafrica Sept 26: Africa is nt poor, we r stealing its wealth @CUTS_Accra @CUTS_Nairobi @CUTS_Lusaka @humantard <http://allafrica.com/stories/201705250313.html> ... #africa via @allafrica

@Cuts_Accra Sep 14 #CFTA is the last chance for Africa to get it right on trade. via <http://bit.ly/2h4A1pG> @Psm_cuts @cutscitee @cutsafrica @CUTS_Geneva

@cutsafrica Sep 5 Story of #Africa needs 2 b told by #African, y young Africans don't take interest in their history and try 2 rewrite the true 1 @JDMahama

@CUTS_Nairobi Sep 4 There Is need to also focus on regional sector platforms to promote agro-industry in the EAC #PACT-EAC2 @CUTS_Geneva @ESRFTZ @cutsafrica

@CUTS_Accra Aug 17: CUTS at #NamashkarAfrica. India in Africa @Psm_cuts @Namaskar @cutsafrica @cutscitee

@CUTS_Nairobi Aug 3 'Kenya is among the few countries in the world with the Climate Change Act' says Michael Okumu 4rm climate change directorate @CUTS_Geneva

@cutsafrica July 6 #Datasafety #Realtimenotification 4 free raising awareness 2 make people go digital r challenges @CUTS_Nairobi @CUTS_Accra @amol_kulkarni1

Sources

BD: Business Daily, B & FT: Business & Financial Times, DG: Daily Graphic, DM: Daily Mail, GNA: Ghana News Agency, LT: Lusaka Times, ND: NewsDay, NT: The New Times, SD: Standard Digital, TEA: The East African, ToZ: Times of Zambia

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