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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

CONSULTATIVE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACCELERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AfCFTA AND ELIMINATION OF TRADE BARRIERS HELD ON 30TH AUGUST – 1ST SEPTEMBER 2023 IN ADDIS ABABA

Proposed Recommendations

Session A. Implementation of the national AfCFTA agreement

Policy and regulations

1. IGAD should advocate for Somalia, SSD and Sudan to ratify the AfCFTA agreement by depositing the required instruments
2. IGAD and MS should facilitate harmonization of policies, regulations and standards influencing targeted goods for guided CB trade

Infrastructure, logistics and governance

3. MS with support of IGAD should improve hard infrastructure and logistics to reduce on transport costs and delivery period of goods to import destination countries in meaningful quantities and high quality
4. IGAD should advocate for trade facilitation by encouraging MS to remove illegal roadblocks, check points, illegal fees, trade barriers such as border bureaucracy & tariff and non-tariff barriers to liberalize and expedite cross-border trade

Financial access and resource mobilization

5. MS and IGAD should convince national and international finance institutions to support private sector engagement in crossborder and continental trade to mitigate associated high risks.
6. IGAD and MS should mobilize financial resources at regional and national levels to fast-track implementation of AfCFTA agreement

Capacity building and awareness creation

7. IGAD, UNECA and AfCFTA secretariat should continue providing technical assistance and capacity building on Agreement and Protocols, AfCFTA Strategies, National Committees among others.
8. MS with support of IGAD should build the private and public sectors' capacity to produce and provide the range and quality of services consumers need at enough quantities and competitive prices



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9. IGAD and MS should continue with implementation of AfCFTA agreement including awareness creation and sensitization of actors including the private sector about the opportunities availed by AfCFTA agreement using easily understandable means including local languages
10. MS with support of IGAD should support and build the capacity of the private sector to access new markets and comply with SPS measures and other import requirements e.g. Tariff and non-tariff barriers
11. MS of exporting countries independently or in collaboration with IGAD should organize trade missions with the relevant stakeholders for market profiling to widen destinations of export goods

Coordination and bilateral engagements

12. IGAD should strengthen coordination at regional level for implementation of AfCFTA agreement through established regional business forum
13. Exporting MS and importing countries should regularly review the bilateral agreements/ memoranda of understanding /between them to resolve any emerging trade related issues and share the updated version of the import requirements with regulatory bodies of exporting countries.
14. IGAD, EAC and COMESA should strengthen collaboration to accelerate implementation of AfCFTA agreement

Session B: Tariffs and NTBs

1. IGAD should advocate for simplified trade regime like EAC to enhance trade by small traders
2. MS should increase formal crossborder points and undertake continuous sensitization to key stakeholders and regulators on the need to eliminate both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade.
3. MS through crossborder (CB) committees should enhance awareness creation of the need to engage in formal trade away from informal trade that is often risky to women who sometimes are raped or smugglers of goods disappear with them leading to enormous losses
4. IGAD should facilitate harmonization in all aspects relating to cross border trade and encourage MS to put in place structures & systems to facilitate CBT and eliminate NTBs
5. Government and private sector to invest in modernization of customs and transit systems and strategies (inclusive of developing one stop border posts and expand facilities such as inland container depots)



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6. IGAD should work with MS to facilitate customs agencies to exchange information using harmonized information data base that helps to clear good and services at the border