



UNIVERSITY
OF
MAURITIUS



WTO CHAIRS
PROGRAMME

CALL FOR PAPERS

WCP Virtual International Conference on International Trade and Investment

Special Conference Theme

'AfCFTA: Challenges and Opportunities'

7–8 September 2022

Organised by the African WTO Chairs Programmes (WCP) @ The University of Mauritius (Mauritius), North-West University (South Africa), University of Tunis (Tunisia), University of Nairobi (Kenya), Université d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin), Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal), University of Rwanda (Rwanda); Cairo University (Egypt), National University of Lesotho (Lesotho), University of Yaounde 2 (Cameroon), Université Mohammed V Rabat (Morocco) and Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia).

The signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement in March 2018 represented a milestone on the road towards achieving the longstanding goal of closer African economic and political integration. With 54 signatories and a population of over 1.3 billion people (with a combined GDP of around \$3.4 trillion), this agreement has been described as the largest trade agreement in terms of member states and population since the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO). According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF 2019), under the AfCFTA: "the elimination of tariffs on intraregional trade is estimated to [further] increase trade in the region by about 15-25 percent over the medium term, whereas reducing non-tariff barriers by half would more than double such effects". Thus, despite the fact that the share of Africa's intra-continental trade flows in global trade has remained low, intra-African trade and investment have great growth potential; yet there are still some related challenges.

The WTO Chairs in the African region are organising a virtual International Conference on International Trade and Investment, with a special conference theme of '**AfCFTA: Challenges and Opportunities**'. The conference aims to provide a forum not only to academics working on issues related to Africa and developing countries but also to policymakers from the region who can discuss and deliberate on the implications, benefits, challenges and opportunities of the AfCFTA. The conference organisers invite conceptual, empirical research presentations and country-specific case studies in line with the conference theme as well as other trade-related issues in Africa. Delegates are invited to present completed research papers and/or work in progress. Submissions and presentations must address both the theoretical and practical implications of the findings. Parallel tracks of refereed presentations will enable authors to obtain constructive feedback on their studies. Furthermore, the organisers are hoping to hold a round table that will bring academics and policy makers together to focus on specific aspects of the conference theme.

The topics considered may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Modelling the AfCFTA's impact (social, economic, political and environmental) on African countries.
- The challenges and opportunities of tariff reductions under the AfCFTA
- AfCFTA and the transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation
- AfCFTA: The potential for increased trade in goods and services
- Financing the implementation of the AfCFTA
- The legal and normative implications of the AfCFTA
- Intra-African trade under the AfCFTA
- The impact of COVID-19 on AfCFTA implementation and effectiveness
- The role of trade facilitation and or investment facilitation
- Value-chain analysis: global value chains and/or regional value chains
- The implications of the AfCFTA for the private sector (importers and exporters)
- Rules of origin, infrastructure and trade facilitation in the AfCFTA
- Digital trade integration in Africa
- AfCFTA and the Sustainable Development Goals
- AfCFTA: Policies and negotiation options
- Investment, competition and intellectual property under the AfCFTA
- Women, youth and SME development under the AfCFTA
- The AfCFTA implications for land-linked/ land-locked countries
- Leadership in the implementation of the AfCFTA
- Other trade-related issues in Africa.

Guidelines

The organising committee invites the submission of abstracts (max. 300 words) or full papers (max.5000 words) from researchers and practitioners in the fields of international trade, development, finance and investment. All abstracts should be formatted to facilitate the review process. Authors' names and details, including names of all co-authors plus affiliations and addresses for general correspondence (including email address) of each author, and a brief personal profile (max. 100 words) of the presenter, should appear on a separate cover page. By submitting an abstract, at least one author undertakes to attend the virtual international conference if the final paper is accepted. In addition, one author should not have more than two submissions, either as a single author or as a co-author.

All submissions should be forwarded via email (as a word.doc attachment) to b.seetannah@uom.ac.mu, v.tandrayen@uom.ac.mu and v.mooneeram@uom.ac.mu, with the subject line 'WCP Virtual International Conference on International Trade and Investment 2022'. Researchers are encouraged to register upon acceptance of their abstract. Authors of accepted abstracts will need to submit the completed paper (max. 5,000 words) by 30 June 2022 for inclusion in the conference e-proceedings, subject to a blind review. Preference will be given to empirical or conceptual papers, which address the conference theme. Papers in other areas of international trade, development and investment can also be submitted, although preference will be given to those that are most closely aligned to the conference theme.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Deadline for submission of abstracts (max 500 words) or full papers (max. 5,000 words): **30 June 2022**

Notification of review/acceptance: **15 July 2022**

Revised extended abstracts/final papers for inclusion in the refereed proceedings: **5 August 2022**

Deadline for registration: **12 August 2022**

Conference dates: **7–8 September 2022**

Conference Co-Chairs and Organising Committee

Co-Chairs: Prof Boopen Seetanah (University of Mauritius), Dr Verena Tandrayen-Ragoobur (University of Mauritius), Mrs Varsha Mooneeram-Chadee (University of Mauritius) and Professor Wilma Viviers (North-West University, South Africa).

Organising Committee

Prof Leila Baghdadi (University of Tunis); Prof Tabitha W. Kiriti-Nganga (University of Nairobi); Prof Alastaire Alinsato (Université d'Abomey-Calavi); Prof ,Khady Yama Sarr (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal); Prof Rama B Rao (University of Rwanda); Prof. Chahir Zaki (Cairo University); Prof Tsoatang Tsietsi (National University of Lesotho); Prof Alain Didier Olinga (University of Yaounde 2); Prof Azzedine Ghoufrane (Université Mohammed V Rabat, Morocco) and Prof Alemayehu Geda (Addis Ababa University).

Scientific Committee

Prof Jaime De Melo (Emeritus Professor, University of Geneva); Prof Oliver Morrissey (University of Nottingham); Prof Andy McKay (University of Sussex); Prof Nicholas .Ngepah (University of Johannesburg); Prof Raja Vinesh Sannasse (SADC); Mr Komi Tsowou (UNECA); Dr Jean-Luc Kilolo (UNECA); Prof Richard Newfarmer (International Growth Centre); Prof Alexandros.Sarris (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); Ms Trudi Hartzenberg (TRALAC); Dr Stephen .Karingi (UNECA); Dr Nassim Oulmane (UNECA); Ms Bineswaree.Bolaky (UNECA); Dr Mustapha.Sadni Jallab (WTO); Dr Werner Zdouc (WTO); Dr Riza Noer Arfani (Universitas Gadjah Mada); Prof Taleb Awad-Warrad (University of Jordan); Dr Sheereen Fauzel (University of Mauritius); Dr Maarten Smeets (St Petersburg State University/SUIBE), Ms Chibole Wakoli, Ms. Aïssatou Diallo (ITC), Dr Reena Bhatu-Babajee (University of Mauritius) and Dr Zameelah Khan Jaffur (University of Mauritius).

About the WTO Chairs Programme

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) seeks to enhance knowledge and understanding of the trading system among academics, citizens and policy makers in developing countries by stimulating teaching, research and public debate on international trade and trade cooperation at the level of tertiary education and research institutions. The WTO provides financial support for a period of four years to academic institutions, and facilitates continuous interaction between institutions, ministries, civil society, the private sector, students and academics. It also supports academic institutions and associated individual scholars from developing countries in the following areas: course preparation, teaching, research and information dissemination. The ultimate objective of the WTO Chairs Programme is to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of universities from developing countries to support governments in the formulation of sound trade policies. One of the main objectives of the WCP is to promote research focused on extending specialised knowledge and explaining the policy relevance of existing research.

Co-organisers: African WTO Chair Programme



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