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AUDREY BINEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APN
WOMEN OF AFRICA NETWORK

EDITORIAL

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challenges limiting export capacity. Recent initiatives such as Compact with Africa (CwA) with a strong focus on improving the business environment, building infrastructure, and promoting effective regulations and institutions appear to be in line with this comprehensive approach. The rapidly growing middle class and demand from East Asia, accompanied by rising relative wages, along with the shifting structure of global value chains, offer new market opportunities for Sub-Saharan African countries to strategically diversify trade with Asia.

Source: World Bank

WORLD BANK'S 96 HOURS IN EAST AFRICA

Makhtar Diop
@Diop_IFC
And it's a wrap! Last week I completed an action-packed official visit to #Kenya and #Tanzania. Here's a recap of what took place during these 96 hours.



In a video post on twitter, Managing-Director of IFC, Makhtar Diop, summarised his 96-hr visit to Kenya and Uganda. He describes Kenya as "an important hub of Trade, technology, finance and culture for all of East Africa." He met people from the digital world; housing; pharmaceutical industry; food; power sector; business and even creative arts industry. He explained how his experience shows "Kenya is a hub and an essential part of the African regional integration." He also met Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta who discussed with him Kenya's "Big Four" (affordable housing; food security; universal health care and manufacturing). IFC has been a key part in "helping implementation of these priorities." "Now, more than ever," Diop says, IFC needs to bring "the private sector at the center of the work" they are doing in Kenya. For Diop's part, AfCFTA (Regional and continental trade) remains an opportunity "to integrate even more African economies." On

his trip to Tanzania, he met the new president, Samia Hassan, who asked IFC to be "the main agent to support the agenda" she has in economic empowerment and development for women in Tanzania. More interventions will be centred around gender over time. You can view the full video on "East Africa Rising" Instagram account on: www.instagram.com/eastafricanrising



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AFRICA'S DIVERSE PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL TRADE KEY TO ACHIEVING ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, SAYS NEW WORLD BANK BOOK



African countries must expand and diversify their participation in international trade and global value chains to reduce poverty on a large scale and transform their economies, says a new World Bank book released on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

The continent must go beyond trade in raw materials and link its production and trade to the global economy to take advantage of the unlimited demand and innovation along the supply chain. This requires comprehensive and dynamic efforts that bolster Africa's export market access and diversifies its markets to new regions and new products while also strengthening regional trade, says the 'Africa In the New Trade Environment: Market Access in Troubled Times' book.

"The global economy is a source of growth that African economies cannot afford to ignore. While African exports of goods and services have seen their fastest growth in the past decade, the volumes remain low at just 3 percent of global trade. The time is ripe for policymakers to expand their thinking beyond traditional approaches and traditional markets if they want to play an active role in international trade in the 21st century," said Ousmane Diagana, World Bank Vice President for Western and Central Africa. The book notes that unilateral trade preferences have the potential to promote economic transformation through exports and calls for evaluating and re-engineering trade with traditional partners. Utilization rates of many African countries for the existing trade preferences -such as African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and Everything But Arms (EBA) are systematically low. Evidence on AGOA shows that natural resources, mainly oil, account for the bulk of African exports. There is a need to integrate unilateral trade preferences with other efforts to deepen trade and investment between Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries and the OECD countries, mainly the US and the EU, the book emphasized. This includes integrating preferences with foreign aid policy instruments to address structural

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EVENTS IN INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE



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Submission deadline: 11th Feb 2022

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institutions, which are key to reversing all sorts of unconstitutionalism on the continent. He explained that one of the reasons why Western countries will barely-ever undergo coups starts with their strong democratic institutions. Bensah pressed on this as being consistent with SDG 16, which speaks to peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Specifically under Agenda 2063, this would be aspiration 4 (peaceful and secure Africa), and more specifically aspiration 3, which calls for "An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights..."

Mr Makong explained that, in fact, 80% of the work APRM does is in realisation of Agenda 2063's aspiration 3. By way of closing the interview on request of Bensah to wind down with important take-aways, Batlokoa revealed that good governance continues to be a key component of APRM's work, reason for which an African Migration Governance Conference will be held in first half of the year to help support conversations around how Africans move on the continent and how this can inure to stronger governance systems. For his part, Batlokoa believes APRM as an autonomous agency of the AU prosecuting the agenda of good governance for the continent, and monitoring Agenda 2063, is critical at a time AU Member states undergoing transition are in dire support of assistance to strengthen their institutions. Batlokoa took the opportunity to thank the government of Ghana for its support and guidance in realising the APRM's mandate.

Ahead of APRM day on 9 March, the Show believes all and sundry should continue to follow the good works on governance APRM has been managing for almost 20 years now.
ENDS

TWEETS (APN NEWSLETTER)



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@SP_AfCFTA

Meeting with colleagues from the AU, *Southern Africa Regional Office* to map out possibilities for collaboration for the implementation of the #AfCFTA agreement.

#trade
#Africa
#CreatingOneAfricanMarket
@AfCFTA
@MeneWamkele
<https://t.co/3aE31654V0>



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AGENDA 2063 TV SHOW: 80% OF APRM'S WORK IS IN REALIZATION OF ASPIRATION 3 OF AGENDA 2063 BY E K BENSAH JR



The 11 February 2022 edition of Agenda 2063 TV Show ended on a note of optimism, and with some assurance of APRM's role in helping stem the spate of coups in West Africa's "winter". Speaking

to host of the Show, E K Bensah Jr, Batlokoa helped unpack what APRM does; its role in the African Governance Architecture (AGA); African Peace & Security Architecture (APSA) and why, most importantly, the AU's Peace and Security Council decided to reach out to the APRM for a maiden Joint Retreat in December.

In the interview, Batlokoa Makong revealed the important role he plays at APRM as a Senior officer of the autonomous AU agency as Coordinator of Early Warning and Conflict Prevention programme, and offered a concise overview of APRM's locus in the conversation on continental peace and security. Pressed by Bensah on what APRM would be able to do about the recent coups in the sub-region, while accepting subsidiarity and ECOWAS role as the _primus inter pares_ responding to governance crises in the subregion, Batlokoa explained that, the AU Peace and Security Council has asked APRM to work more closely on the Country Structural Vulnerability Assessment (CSVA).

Established since 2015 by the AU PSC, the CSVA is a voluntary process, with Ghana being one of the first countries to undertake it. Our source at the AU Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS) indicates that Cote d'Ivoire is undertaking the CSVA, with Zambia starting in October 2021. One of the important take-aways from the Durban meeting in December is in preparation of the 20th year anniversary of the APRM. Scheduled to come out before 2023, a study has been commissioned to look at the impact APRM has had on the continent. Batlokoa further revealed that APRM has been tasked to work more concretely on supporting democratic

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upper-middle-income country by the year 2063, as well as regional development aspirations outlined in the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap, the COMESA Industrial Policy and related Trade Protocols". The AfCFTA is a flagship project of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, it aims at accelerating intra-African trade and boosting Africa's trading position in the global market by strengthening Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations. As of 10th February 2022, 41 of the 54 signatories have deposited their instruments of AfCFTA.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES AND REQUESTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
Agyedho Adwok Nyaba | Information and Communications Officer | AU-SARO | E-NyabaA@africa-union.org | Mobile+265995792667 | Website: www.au.int

Lavender Degre | Communications Officer | UNECA SRO-SA | Email:lavender.degre@un.org | Mobile +265995753144 | Web: https://www.uneca.org

Mayeso Msokera | PR and Communications Officer | Ministry of Trade- Government of Malawi | Email:mayemsokera@gmail.com | Mobile +265999384886 | https://www.malawi.gov.mw

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The AU-SARO is a representational office of AU in Southern Africa, it develops, maintain constructive and productive relationships between the AU, its Member States in the Region as well as SADC and COMESA. The office aims to Increase awareness about AU programmes and its mission in the region; monitor socio-economic and political and cultural developments as well as liaise and harmonize specific policies of the AU in the Southern Region.



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PRESS RELEASE: AU-SARO AND UNECA SRO-SA CONVENE A HIGH-LEVEL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE ON AfCFTA IN MALAWI



Lilongwe, Malawi-The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) in partnership with the Government of Malawi, UNECA-SRO-SA, and the AfCFTA Secretariat has organized the AfCFTA Multi-Stakeholders High-level Conference which will be held on 10th and 11th February 2022 at the BICC in Lilongwe. The main objective of the Conference is to sensitize stakeholders in Malawi on the AfCFTA Agreement as well as to review Malawi's preparedness and readiness to implement the Agreement. The Conference was officially opened by H.E Mark Katsonga Phiri, the newly appointed Minister of Trade and Industry. In his opening remarks, the Minister stated that "Malawi is proud of her decision to sign and ratify the AfCFTA agreement" He further highlighted that this is not only because it is one of the founding members, but also because the country believes in the potential of AfCFTA as a catalyst for Africa's economic development and realization of the Malawi vision 2063 and the African Union Agenda 2063". The AU Permanent Representative to Southern Africa Ambassador David Claude Pierre also stated that the AfCFTA will increase not only the ratio of industrial goods to extractive goods but will ease the process of importing raw materials from other African countries thus giving SME's a better chance of succeeding. The continental free trade area is projected to Increase intra-continental exports by more than 81% percent, while exports to non-African countries will rise by 19 percent. The net effect of these increases will contribute to the lifting of an additional 30 million people out of extreme poverty and 68 million people out of moderate poverty. In addition, Ms Eunice G.Kamwendo, Director of UNECA-SRO-SA mentioned "I am aware that the Malawi AfCFTA Strategy, which is a subcomponent of the National Export Strategy and National Trade Policy, will provide impetus for industrialization and development in line with aspiration of the Malawi Vision 2063 to transform Malawi into a wealthy and self-reliant industrialized

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