

Multi-stakeholder expert workshop on a potential Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) of the Continental Free Trade Area in Africa (2015-2017)

16 - 17 April 2015

Caucus Room 11, ECA Conference Centre
Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

Abstract Program

The aim of the workshop will be to strategize on a potential human rights impact assessment (HRIA) of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), on which negotiations will begin in 2015. By undertaking an HRIA focusing on agriculture and employment at the outset of the negotiation process, this would provide negotiating countries with an evidence base and policy recommendations on a critical sector (agriculture) and common challenges (employment) from which to develop an effective and coherent approach to the negotiations with a view toward realizing outcomes that are aligned with national human rights as well as development commitments and priorities. The meeting will feature a validation and discussion of an issues paper prepared by OHCHR in collaboration with ECA and FES. It aims at elaborating future steps in the HRIA process.

Thursday, 16 April 2015

Venue: Caucus Room 11, ECA Conference Centre

9:15-9:30	Welcome and Introduction David Luke, Coordinator, ATPC, UNECA Ayush Bat-Erdene, Chief, Right to Development Section, OHCHR Friedrich Kramme-Stermose, Director, FES Ethiopia
09:30-09:45	Setting the Scene I: Regional Integration in Africa and the CFTA Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA
09:45-10:20	Setting the Scene II: Introducing the Continental Free Trade Area Negotiations Treasure Maphanga, Director, Department of Trade and Industry, African Union Commission
10:20-10:30	Coffee/Tea Break

10:30-10:50	<p>Setting the Scene III: The Origin of a Human Rights Impact Assessment of the CFTA</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer, Trade and Development, Employment and Social Policy, FES Geneva</p>
10:50-12:30	<p>Setting the Scene IV: What are the pre-conditions and steps of a HRIA of CFTA? – examining substance and process</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Susan Mathews, Human Rights Officer, Right to Development Section, OHCHR</p> <p>Discussants: Joan Kagwanja, Coordinator, Land Policy Initiative ECA Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Chief, African Gender Centre, ECA</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	<p>CFTA and the Agriculture Sector</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Adama Coulibally, Chief, Food Security, Agriculture and Land Section ECA</p> <p>Genzeb Akele, Senior Director, Value Chains, Agricultural Transformation Agency, Ethiopia</p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee/Tea Break
16:00-17:30	<p>CFTA and Employment</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Frank Lisk, Professor, Warwick University, UK</p> <p>Kebour Ghenna, Executive Director, Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>Trade union representative (tbc)</p>
18:15	Leaving with bus to joint dinner at “Yod Abyssinia” Cultural Restaurant

Friday, 17 April 2015

Venue: Caucus Room 11, ECA Conference Centre

9:15-09:30	<p>Introduction to breakout sessions: Aim and Procedure</p> <p>Yvonne Theemann, FES Geneva</p> <p>Susan Mathews, OHCHR</p>
9:30-11:00	<p>Breakout sessions Part I:</p> <p>Three groups to focus on modalities for transparency, consultation and participation in CFTA negotiations</p> <p>followed by report back to plenary</p>
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-12:30	<p>Breakout sessions Part II: Three groups divided by topic (lists will be open for subscription):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group A: HRIA of Agriculture - Food Security - Group B: HRIA of Agriculture - Livelihoods - Group C: HRIA of Employment
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00	Report back from breakout sessions
15:00-16:30	<p>Discussion on the way forward</p> <p>Moderator: David Luke, Coordinator, ATPC, UNECA</p>
17:00	<p>Closure of workshop</p> <p>David Luke, Coordinator, ATPC, UNECA</p> <p>Idrissa Kane, Regional Representative a.i., Eastern Africa Office, OHCHR</p> <p>Friedrich Kramme-Stermose, Director, FES Ethiopia</p>