

Commission: World Trade Organization (WTO)

Session: NATIONAL MUN - 2024

Sponsors: Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Czechia, Egypt, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine

QUESTION OF: **STRENGTHENING REGIONAL TRADE  
INTEGRATION IN AFRICA**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisions an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena,

Noting with approval

that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has the potential to boost intra-African trade by 52.3% and increase the continent's GDP by 1% by 2040, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA),

Recognizing that intra- African trade accounts for only 16% of Africa's total trade, compared to 68% in Europe and 59% in Asia, as reported by the Africa Union (AU) in 2023,

Emphasizing the importance of regional trade integration as a key driver for economic growth, poverty reduction, and sustainable development in Africa,

Deeply concerned by the fact that the African continent suffers infrastructural deficiencies, inefficient trade regulations and inadequate logistical supports which continue to undermine the work towards a strong regional trade,

1. Encourages the development of regional value chains which can amplify economic diversification, job creation, to facilitate the exchange of commodities across borders;

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2. Recommends the Member States to invest in research and support the establishment of a digital infrastructure to enhance e-commerce and prevent sales on the black market;
3. Applauds the United Nations constant involvement in peacemaking treaties to create a conducive environment for regional trade while simultaneously seek the intervention of mediator countries as highlighted by the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA);
4. Approves that the United Nations favours the implementation of the AfCFTA to create a singular market to ensure fluidity of goods, services and business investments;
5. Endorses the provision of technical assistance, training schemes on export protocols and international standards to strengthen the skills and aptitudes of African companies and trade organizations to improve trade efficiency;
6. Invites Member States to establish Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with African companies to support the development of trade infrastructure and contribute to economic growth;
7. Recommends leveraging the AfCFTA by harmonizing tariffs, customs, procedures and trade regulations to facilitate the movement of goods, services, labour and capital within the African continent;
8. Supports initiatives aimed at improving access to finance Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in exporting to Africa including market research, trade missions and financial assistance, that can enhance their competitiveness in the African markets;

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9. Promotes the creation of a Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) with the indelible help of powerful countries which are technologically advanced, to facilitate cross-border payments in local currencies and reduce reliance on foreign currencies;
10. Welcomes the promotion of sustainable practices and green trade initiatives, such as renewable energy projects and environmentally friendly technologies, that support both economic growth and environmental sustainability in the regions;
11. Urges international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to provide technical and financial assistance to African countries for capacity-building and infrastructural development;
12. Stresses the importance of balancing “free trade” with “fair trade” principles to ensure that trade liberalisation leads to inclusive and sustainable development;
13. Welcomes the implementation of schemes targeting women and youth to boost the labour force by implementing gender-sensitive policies in trade agreements while concordantly broadening perspectives and ameliorating the labour towards facilitating the trade system in Africa.