



# National Workshop on The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Enterprises (MSMEs) in The Gambia

Banjul, The Gambia

17-18 September 2019

## Agenda

Time	Session	Notes
<b>Day One - Tuesday, 17 September</b>		
08:30 - 09:00	<b>Registration of Participants</b>	
09:00 - 10:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPENING SESSION</b></p> <p>The main objective of this session is to set the context and ensure that there is a common understanding of the objectives of the workshop, to reach a consensus on how the workshop will be conducted over the two days and overall to create a conducive atmosphere for the exchanges and discussions during the entire period.</p> <p><b>Chair - Mr. Lamin Dampha, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)</b></p> <p><b>Statements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ms. Saras Jagwanth, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG, UN-DESA)</b></li><li>• <b>Ms. Aissata De, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b></li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Edrissa Mass Jobe, President Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Statement - Mr. Lamin Jobe, Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)</b></p>	
10:00 - 10:15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
10:15 - 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION ONE</b></p> <p><b>Understanding the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement and Its Implications for The Gambia</b></p> <p>This session is aimed at providing workshop participants with an update on the Gambia’s participation on the negotiations to date, to map out the issues going forward and to highlight the types of actions that need to be taken to engage different stakeholder groups in the process, so that the country can be positioned to derive maximum benefits from the agreement.</p> <p><b>Facilitator - Mr. Muhammed Jagana, CEO, J Financial Services</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What is the AfCFTA, the vision for the Country and an update on The Gambia’s participations in the negotiations to date - Mr. Lamin Dampha, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)</b></li> <li>• <b>Preparing for the AfCFTA: Rules of Origin - Mr. Joseph Njie, Commission of Customs</b></li> <li>• <b>The Dispute Resolution Mechanism - Ms. Kumba Jow, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Justice</b></li> <li>• <b>The Role of ECOWAS in the AfCFTA – Mr. Tei Konzi, Commissioner, Trade, Customs and Free Movement of Persons.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p>	
12:30 - 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 - 15:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION TWO</b></p> <p><b>Transforming the Gambia into a Service Oriented Economy - Voices of the Stakeholders</b></p> <p>This session is meant to solicit inputs from different stakeholder groups on how they see the Gambia engaging in the AfCFTA going forward. The session is also expected to address how the Gambia should position itself in the sub-region given its size, and</p>	

	<p>geographical location amongst others, especially in terms of service provision.</p> <p><b>Facilitator - Mr. Abdoulie Touray, Chairman, Sahel investments</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Liberalization of the Financial sector</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Perspective of the regulator - Central Bank of the Gambia</b></li> <li>○ <b>Perspective of the operator – Mr. Omar Mboob, Head, Corporate Banking, Trust Bank Gambia Ltd</b></li> <li>○ <b>Perspective of the Microfinance providers – Mr. Baboucarr Khan, Managing Director, Reliance Financial Services</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Role of ICT in Facilitating our transformation into a service oriented economy. - Mr. Seedy Bensouda, President, Information Technology Association of The Gambia (ITAG)</b></li> <li>• <b>Doing Business in the Gambia - Towards a more business friendly regulatory environment - PURA CEO</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p>	
15:30 - 15:45	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>	
15:45 - 18:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION THREE</b></p> <p><b>Business Opportunities under the AfCFTA</b></p> <p>This session is aimed at exploring how the agreement could impact different sectors and what sort of measures need to be initiated to ensure that these sectors can make use of the opportunities presented. The types of challenges that will be faced by the sectors will also be highlighted given the size and geographical location of the country, and what could be done to mitigate the challenges.</p> <p><b>Facilitator - Ms. Fatou Sinyan Mbergan</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Manufacturing - Mr. Muhammed Sillah, Association of Gambian Manufacturers (AGM)</b></li> <li>• <b>Agriculture and Agri business - Mr. Momodou Ceesay, GHE</b></li> <li>• <b>Real Estate and Construction - Mr. Mustapha Njie, CEO, TAF Africa Global</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions:</b></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing in Infrastructure - Ministry of Transport Works and Infrastructure</li> <li>• Opportunities for Tourism under the AfCFTA - GTBoard</li> </ul> <p>Discussions</p>	
<b>Day Two - Wednesday, 18 September</b>		
08:30 - 08:45	<b>RECAP OF DAY ONE</b>	
08:45 - 10:45	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION FOUR</b></p> <p><b>Learning from other African Countries in the Implementation of AfCFTA</b></p> <p>Participants from different African countries will share their experiences on how they engage and prepare for the AfCFTA. It is envisaged that this session could provide some useful lessons that the Gambia could learn from.</p> <p><b>Facilitator - Mrs. Naffie Barry, President, Gambia Women’s Chamber of Commerce</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Country Experiences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Senegal - Ms. Astou Sy, Commissaire aux Enquêtes Economiques, Chef de la Division des négociations Commerciales internationales, Direction du Commerce Extérieur</li> <li>○ Sierra Leone - Mr. Abdul Kamara, Director, Programme Management Directorate /Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Trade and Industry</li> <li>○ Ivory Coast - Ms. Fatoumata Fofana, Deputy Director of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Discussions</p>	
10:45 - 11:00	<b><i>Coffee/Tea Break</i></b>	
11:00 - 13:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION FIVE</b></p> <p><b>AfCFTA and The Gambia – Challenges and Opportunities</b></p> <p>This session will include different initiatives and studies that have been launched on the AfCFTA. In addition, it will address the linkages between the AfCFTA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and poverty reduction. Presenters will showcase different initiatives addressing these issues with particular emphasis on the role of MSMEs.</p>	

	<p><b>Facilitator - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDP</li> <li>• UNECA</li> <li>• IMF</li> <li>• ITC – Trade in services</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p>	
13:00 - 14:00	<b><i>Lunch Break</i></b>	
14:00 - 15:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION SIX</b></p> <p><b>Positioning the MSMEs: Does the Gambia have the Capacity to Compete?</b></p> <p>This session will focus on how MSME’s need to prepare for the implementation of the AfCFTA. This will address a number of issues including competitiveness, capacity for delivery, and the services that could be provided to the sub-region.</p> <p><b>Facilitator - Dr. Mustapha Fanneh, University of the Gambia</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Positioning the MSMEs – Mr. Yusupha Keita GIEPA</b></li> <li>• <b>Provision of Economic Opportunities for the Youth - Mr. Baboucarr Kebbeh, CEO, Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce</b></li> <li>• <b>Economic Opportunities for Youth and MSMEs under ACFTA - Ms. Fatou Mbenga Jallow, Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Tourism and MSMEs - Opportunities under the AfCFTA - Small Scale Operators, Mr. Momodou Secka, General Manager, ASSERT</b></li> <li>• <b>My AfCFTA – Mr. David Jeng, Founder and Managing Consultant, Bliss Executives</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p>	
15:30 - 15:45	<b><i>Coffee /Tea break</i></b>	
15:45 - 17:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLOSING SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations for the way forward, next steps and closing</b></p> <p>The recommendations made from the previous sessions on how to continue engaging, learning and experience-sharing will now be</p>	

	<p>brought back to plenary for discussions and for reaching a consensus on the engagement strategy and the establishment of the learning network. Recommendations on any other emerging issues will also be discussed.</p> <p><b>Facilitator - Ms. Ndey Isatou Njie, Consultant, UN-DESA</b></p> <p><b>Summary of Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Discussions</b></p> <p><b>Closing - Mr. Lamin Dampha, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)</b></p>	
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