

**Capacity Building Workshop & B2B Event:
Unlocking opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Southern Africa under
the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**

**Jointly Organized by the
Economic Development Board of Mauritius
(Host of ITC She Trades Hub in Mauritius)
&
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Subregional Office for Southern Africa
3-4 September, 2025
Venue: Intercontinental Hotel, BalACLava, Mauritius.**

Programme of Work

Wednesday September 3, 2025

A. Morning Session

09:00-09:15	Registration of Participants and Videos by EDB and ECA SRO-SA
09:15 - 10:15	<p>Agenda Item 1: Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome remarks by Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Board, Mauritius, Mr. Mahen Abhimanu Kundasamy. ▪ Statement by the Director, ECA Subregional office for Southern Africa, Ms. Eunice G. Kamwendo. ▪ Statement by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mauritius & Seychelles, Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh. ▪ Statement by the AfCFTA Secretariat. ▪ Address by Junior Minister, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Mauritius, Honourable Dhaneshwar Damry. ▪ Keynote Address by Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, Republic of Mauritius, Honourable Ms. Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie. <p>Facilitator: Master of Ceremony.</p>
10:15–10:20	Group Photo
10:20-10:30	Tea Break
10:30-11:30	<p>Agenda Item 2: The African Continental Free Trade Area</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh, <i>United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mauritius & Seychelles</i>.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introducing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Rationale, Protocols, and Institutional Structures. <i>By: Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA SRO-SA.</i> ▪ Interface between the AfCFTA, SADC FTA and TFTA. <i>By: Ms. Zodwa Mabuza, Chief, ECA SRO-SA.</i> ▪ Understanding the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade <i>By: Ms. Nelly Muriuki, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA ATPC.</i> <p>Q&A (15 minutes)</p>
11:30-13:00	<p>Agenda Item 3: Market Access Opportunities under the AfCFTA for women entrepreneurs in Southern Africa.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Zodwa Mabuza, <i>Chief, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, UNECA Sub-Regional office for Southern Africa, ECA SRO-SA.</i></p>

	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding Market Access Opportunities under the AfCFTA for Mauritius and Southern Africa & One Africa Brand. <i>By Mr. Christophe Durand, Quantitative Market Analyst, UN International Trade Center.</i> ▪ Real case examples of trading in Africa. <i>By: 2 female entrepreneurs from Southern Africa.</i> <p>Q&A (15 minutes)</p>
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>

B. Afternoon Session

14:00- 15:45	<p>Agenda Item 4: All you need to know to trade under the AfCFTA: Rules of origin, Non-Tariff measures and AfCFTA implementation tools.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, <i>Economic Affairs Officer, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, ECA SRO-SA.</i></p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rules of origin, NTMs and AfCFTA Implementation tools. <i>By: Ms. Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, TRALAC.</i> ▪ The role of the AfCFTA Secretariat in supporting Women in Trade. <i>By: AfCFTA Secretariat.</i> <p>Q&A (15 minutes)</p>
	Tea Break
16:00– 17:20	<p>Agenda Item 5: Leveraging e-commerce and digital platforms to trade under the AfCFTA.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Nelly Rita Muriuki, <i>Economic Affairs Officer, Africa Trade Policy Center, ECA.</i></p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E-commerce in a nutshell. <i>By: Ms. Sarita Ramdawor, First Choice Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa, DHL Express Regional office in Mauritius.</i> ▪ Unlocking opportunities from Digital Trade in Africa: Real case examples.

	<p><i>By: Ms. Sameera Chattun Khoyratty, Founder & CEO of Safe Sha Training Centre Ltd, Mauritius</i></p> <p><i>Q&A (5 minutes)</i></p>
17:20-17:25	<p>Wrap up of Day One</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremony</i></p>

Thursday September 4, 2025

A. Morning Session

09:30-10:45	<p>Agenda Item 6: A focus on Trade in Services: Opportunities and challenges under the AfCFTA.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Dhanandjay Luximon, Deputy Director – International Trade Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unpacking the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Services. <i>By: AfCFTA Secretariat.</i> ▪ Interface between SADC and AfCFTA on Trade in Services <i>By: Ms. Rehema Nzallawahe, Regional Trade Advisor, SADC Secretariat.</i> ▪ Mauritian perspectives on trade in services in Africa. <i>By: Ms. Nirmala Jeetah, Director Bio Industry & Project Development & ITC SheTrades, Economic Development Board</i> <p>Q&A (15 minutes)</p>
10:45-11:00	Tea Break
11:00-12:30	<p>Agenda Item 7: High-level Session on: Challenges and Opportunities of implementing the AfCFTA and Role of National and Regional Institutions.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, TRALAC.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AfCFTA Secretariat. ▪ Mr Dheer Narain Roy, Head of Aqua & International Divisions, Ingenia.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs Farzana Mouratsing, Business Development Manager , Projects & Logistics, Velogic Ltd & Freeport of Mauritius Ltd. ▪ Mr Rajendra Gupta Ramnarain, Acting Director, Customs Mauritius Revenue Authority. ▪ Ms Multra Shalini Karuna, Principal Analyst at the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.
12:30-12:45	Agenda Item 8: Closing Session & Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statement by ECA Subregional office for Southern Africa. ▪ Statement by Economic Development Board of Mauritius.
12:45-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>

B. Afternoon Session

***B2B Event
14:00 to 17:00***