

# 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 SheTrades Mauritius Hub)

&

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office  
for Southern Africa

Date:

03-04  
September 2025

Venue:

Intercontinental Resort  
Balaclava, Mauritius

## AGENDA - WEDNESDAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2025

### A. MORNING SESSION

09:00 – 09:15

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND VIDEOS BY EDB AND ECA SRO-SA

09:15 – 10:15

#### AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. ABHIMANU KUNDASAMY,**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, MAURITIUS

**ADDRESS BY MS. EUNICE G. KAMWENDO,**  
DIRECTOR, ECA SUBREGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

**ADDRESS BY MS. LISA SIMRIQUE SINGH,**  
UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR, MAURITIUS & SEYCHELLES

**ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE DHANESHWAR DAMRY,**  
JUNIOR MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE MS. MARIE ARIANNE NAVARRE-MARIE,**  
MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY WELFARE, REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

10:15 – 10:20

GROUP PHOTO

10:20 – 10:30

#### TEA BREAK

10:30 – 11:30

#### AGENDA ITEM 2: THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

**MODERATOR: MS. MITHULINA CHATTERJEE SAMANTARAY,**  
HEAD, UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR OFFICE, MAURITIUS & SEYCHELLES

##### PRESENTATIONS:

- **INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): RATIONALE, PROTOCOLS, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES BY**  
**MS. BINESWAREE BOLAKY,** ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, ECA SRO-SA
- **INTERFACE BETWEEN THE AfCFTA, SADC FTA AND TFTA BY**  
**MS. ZODWA MABUZA,** CHIEF, ECA SRO-SA
- **UNDERSTANDING THE PROTOCOL ON WOMEN AND YOUTH IN TRADE BY**  
**MS. NELLY MURIUKI,** ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, ECA AFRICA TRADE POLICY CENTRE

Q&A (15 MINUTES)

11:30 – 13:00

#### AGENDA ITEM 3: MARKET ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE AfCFTA FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

**MODERATOR: MS. ZODWA MABUZA,**  
CHIEF, SUB-REGIONAL INITIATIVES SECTION, UNECA SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, ECA SRO-SA

##### PRESENTATIONS:

- **UNDERSTANDING MARKET ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE AfCFTA FOR MAURITIUS AND SOUTHERN AFRICA & ONE AFRICA BRAND BY**  
**MR. CHRISTOPHE DURAND,** QUANTITATIVE MARKET ANALYST, UN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER
- **REAL CASE EXAMPLES OF TRADING IN AFRICA BY**  
**MS. BONINI KUSANO,** CEO AND FOUNDER OF BEYOND KNOWING PTY LTD, SOUTH AFRICA  
**MS. LORATO BOTSHABELO,** FOUNDER, AMICAL DE POCHE ENTERPRISE, BOTSWANA

Q&A (15 MINUTES)

13:00 – 14:00

#### LUNCH BREAK

## B. AFTERNOON SESSION

14:00 – 15:45

### AGENDA ITEM 4: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW TO TRADE UNDER THE AfCFTA: RULES OF ORIGIN, NON-TARIFF MEASURES AND AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

**MODERATOR:** **MS. BINESWAREE BOLAKY**,  
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, SUB-REGIONAL INITIATIVES SECTION, ECA SRO-SA

#### PRESENTATIONS:

- **AFCTA GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE BY**  
**MS. TRUDI HARTZENBERG**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRALAC
- **RULES OF ORIGIN, NTMS AND AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS BY**  
**MS. TRUDI HARTZENBERG**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRALAC

**Q&A (15 MINUTES)**

15:45 – 16:00

## TEA BREAK

16:00 – 17:20

### AGENDA ITEM 5: LEVERAGING E-COMMERCE AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS TO TRADE UNDER THE AfCFTA.

**MODERATOR:** **MS. NELLY RITA MURIUKI**,  
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, AFRICA TRADE POLICY CENTER, ECA

#### PRESENTATIONS:

- **E-COMMERCE IN A NUTSHELL BY**  
**MS. SARITA RAMDAWOR**, FIRST CHOICE MANAGER FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, DHL  
EXPRESS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MAURITIUS
- **UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES FROM DIGITAL TRADE IN AFRICA: REAL CASE  
EXAMPLES BY**  
**DR. SAMEERA CHATTUN KHOYRATTY**, FOUNDER & CEO OF SAFE SHA TRAINING  
CENTRE LTD, MAURITIUS

**Q&A (15 MINUTES)**

17:20 – 17:25

**WRAP UP OF DAY ONE BY THE MASTER OF CEREMONY**

## A. MORNING SESSION

09:30 - 10:45

## AGENDA ITEM 6: A FOCUS ON TRADE IN SERVICES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES UNDER THE AfCFTA

MODERATOR: **DR. VINAYE DEY ANCHARAZ**,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL, MAURITIUS

## PRESENTATIONS:

- THE AfCFTA PROTOCOL ON TRADE IN SERVICES BY **MS. TRUDI HARTZENBERG**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRALAC
- INTERFACE BETWEEN SADC AND AfCFTA ON TRADE IN SERVICES BY **MS. REHEMA NZALLAWAHE**, REGIONAL TRADE ADVISOR, SADC SECRETARIAT
- MAURITIAN PERSPECTIVES ON TRADE IN SERVICES IN AFRICA BY **MS. NIRMALA JEETAH**, DIRECTOR BIO INDUSTRY & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ITC SHETRADES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Q&amp;A (15 MINUTES)

10:45 - 11:00

## TEA BREAK

11:00 - 12:30

## AGENDA ITEM 7: HIGH-LEVEL SESSION ON: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF IMPLEMENTING THE AfCFTA AND ROLE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

MODERATOR: **MS. TRUDI HARTZENBERG**,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRALAC

## PANELISTS:

- **MR. RAJENDRA GUPTA RAMNARAIN**, AG. ACTING DIRECTOR, CUSTOMS MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY
- **MS. REHEMA NZALLAWAHE**, REGIONAL TRADE ADVISOR, SADC SECRETARIAT
- **MR. YANN CHARLOTTE**, OPERATIONS & NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, ASSOCIATION OF MAURITIAN MANUFACTURERS
- **MRS. FARZANA MOURATSING**, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, PROJECTS & LOGISTICS, VELOGIC LTD & FREEPORT OF MAURITIUS LTD
- **MS. MULTRA SHALINI KARUNA**, PRINCIPAL ANALYST AT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

12:30 - 12:45

## AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSING SESSION &amp; WRAP UP

- ADDRESS BY **MS. ZODWA MABUZA**, CHIEF, ECA SRO-SA
- ADDRESS BY **MRS. NIRMALA JEETAH**, DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR BIO INDUSTRY & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ITC SHETRADES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

12:45 - 14:00

## LUNCH BREAK

## B. AFTERNOON SESSION

14:00 - 17:00

## B2B EVENT

14:00 - 14:05

WELCOME REMARKS BY **MRS. NIRMALA JEETAH**, DIRECTOR BIO INDUSTRY & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ITC SHETRADES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

14:05 - 14:10

ADDRESS BY **MS. ZODWA MABUZA**, CHIEF, ECA SRO-SA

14:10 - 15:10

PRESENTATION FROM 6 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: GHANA, SEYCHELLES, SOUTH AFRICA, MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, KENYA

15:10 - 17:00

NETWORKING SESSION - BUYERS MEET

17:00

END OF SESSION