



FOCUS : IATF 2023 in Côte d'Ivoire

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Advancing Towards a United and Integrated Africa

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EDITORIAL



Fatoumata FOFANA BOUNDY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ADVANCING TOWARDS A UNITED AND INTEGRATED AFRICA

Since its creation in 2018, the African Continental Free Trade Area has multiplied its actions in the framework of the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement with stakeholders. Our commitment to promoting the AfCFTA has only strengthened our involvement in achieving this pan-African vision. We can assure you that we will continue to work with motivation and courage with the sole aim of achieving a united and integrated Africa in line with Agenda 2063.

Dear readers, priority actions to raise awareness and provide information on the AfCFTA Agreement have been carried out during 2022 with a view to increasing our impact with the stakeholders concerned. It should be noted that Côte d'Ivoire has positioned itself as a leader in the implementation of the AfCFTA, being the first country to have a fully operational National Committee, with a headquarters and executive bodies dedicated to the implementation of the Agreement. Exchange programmes have been initiated to share the Ivorian model and national experience in institutionalising coordination and promoting the AfCFTA Agreement with other countries in the sub-region.

It is important to realise the immensity of the common project that is the AfCFTA and to work together to put in place tailor-made programmes for its successful implementation. The choice of Côte d'Ivoire as the host country for 2023 IATF is further

recognition of the efforts made by the Ivorian government to strengthen intra-African trade relations.

The year 2023 opens up to us with new possibilities. The National Committee will spare no effort to continue to implement and carry out activities compared with its national strategy for implementing the Agreement, which is based on six (6) axes:

- **Axis 1:** Greater ownership of the Agreement's content by all stakeholders
- **Axis 2:** Streamlining of the institutional and regulatory framework for trade promotion and effective application of the provisions of the Agreement
- **Axis 3:** Strengthening the reference framework for public strategies with a view to improving the competitiveness of sectors
- **Axis 4:** The development and implementation of proactive commercial sector strategies
- **Axis 5:** Upgrading producers (in particular VSB/SME/SMLs) and products
- **Axis 6:** Promoting the participation of women and young people in trade.

Your "One Market" newsletter is back with five sections to keep you up to date with progress on the implementation of the Agreement, at national and continental level, in 2022. I wish you all the best for 2023.

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CÔTE D'IVOIRE, HOST COUNTRY OF THE 2023 INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR (IATF)

IATF Intra-African
Trade Fair
2021



AKWABA
in Côte d'Ivoire



On Friday 25 March 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire was officially designated host country of the 3rd edition of the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF), to be held in 2023 in the Ivorian economic capital. An official ceremony presided over by the Head of the Ivorian Government, His Excellency Mr. Patrick ACHI, was attended by a number of illustrious guests, including the former President of Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Olusegun OBASANJO, the Chairman of Afreximbank, Pr. Benedict ORAMAH, the Minister for Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, the Representatives of the General Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the representatives of the African Union.

The IATF is a unique showcase for promoting the extraordinarily diversified potential of African economies, capable of accelerating the creation of wealth and jobs for the young and fast-growing population of Africa.

Côte d'Ivoire also attaches great importance to the organisation of the IATF, as it sees it as a strategic tool

of the AfCFTA, contributing to the structural transformation of African economies, driven by the acceleration of trade in goods and services.

The Head of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire was delighted with the choice of Côte d'Ivoire and saw the confidence shown by the IATF Advisory Council as recognition of the powerful efforts made by the people of Côte d'Ivoire over the past decade, under the enlightened leadership of the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara, to rebuild the country, boost its economic influence and strengthen intra-African trade relations.

His Excellency Mr. Olusegun OBASANJO, Chairman of the IATF Advisory Council, deplored the low rate (16 to 18%) of trade between African states. This rate is due to the fact that trade opportunities are generally ignored, with a lack of information.

This fair would be a way of rectifying all these various shortcomings.

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CÔTE D'IVOIRE, HOST COUNTRY OF THE 2023 INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR (IATF)



According to Afreximbank forecasts, the 3rd edition of the IATF in Abidjan has the ambition to reach nearly 40 billion dollars in trade agreements, with over 75 exhibiting countries and more than 35,000 visitors. Announced at the end of the second edition held from 15 to 21 November 2021 in Durban, South Africa, this third edition will be held in November 2023 at the Abidjan Exhibition Centre (Parc des Expositions d'Abidjan).

The event was then marked by the signing of the hosting agreement. The Côte d'Ivoire Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, the Chairman of Afreximbank, Prof. Benedict ORAMAH, the AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, Albert MUCHANGA and the representative of the Secretary General of the AfCFTA, Mr. Prudence SEBAHIZI, initialed this agreement on Africa's most important trade event, the IATF.

It is worth noting that the IATF was organised by the African Union, in partnership with the African

Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), with a view to promoting intra-African trade. The IATF is an initiative set up to operationalise the AfCFTA.



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CÔTE D'IVOIRE, HOST COUNTRY OF THE 2023 INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR (IATF)

Developed by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) will enable Africa to save more than \$5 billion a year in payment transaction costs, while speeding up transactions on the continent.

in particular payment service providers, banks and businesses. In line with the AfCFTA, this system has been successfully piloted in six countries in west Africa, namely: Ghana, Nigeria, The Gambia, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. It offers many opportunities for intra-African trade payments. These include:

- Reducing the cost, duration and time variability of cross-border payments across Africa;
- The reduction in commercial banks' liquidity requirements for cross-border payments;
- Reinforced supervision of cross-border payment systems by central banks.



Launched on 13 January 2022 by the President of Ghana, His Excellency Mr. Nana AKUFO-ADDO, in the presence of Prof. Benedict ORAMAH, Chairman of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), the Secretary General of the AfCFTA, His Excellency Mr. Wamkele MENE, in Accra, Ghana, and other financial actors, the PAPSS is an instrument that enables payments and settlements in African currencies.

Le The PAPSS represents a major innovation for the various actors in the African trade sector,



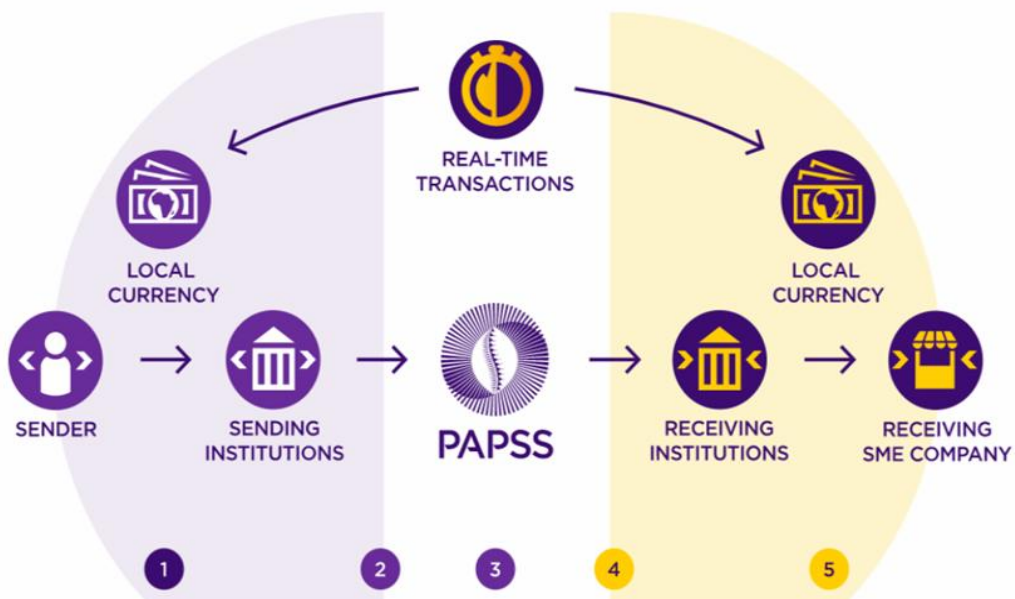
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LAUNCH OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEM (PAPSS)



PAPSS ensures harmonisation across the continent through a legal, regulatory and operational framework. According to the Ghanaian Vice-President, His Excellency Mr. Mahamudu BAWUMIA, it is the most practical and important achievement in the integration of the payment system on the continent since independence.

We have never been so close, as a continent, to the vision of issuing a common currency. It comes at a time when Africa is actively preparing for a digital transformation and will allow a consumer or buyer to pay in their own currency while the seller receives payment in theirs.



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AFcFTA GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



On Friday 7 October in Accra, the Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) officially launched a "guided trade initiative" bringing together seven (7) of the continent's countries. This initiative makes it possible to start trading at preferential rates.

It aims to send a positive message to African economic operators. The seven countries that have signed up to this initiative are Ghana, Cameroon, Rwanda, Kenya, Mauritius, Egypt and Tanzania.

The Guided Trade Initiative aims to achieve its objective by linking companies and products for import-export between interested States Parties, in coordination with their national committees for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. In all, some 96 products for which rules of origin exist, could be traded freely with preferential tariff rates.

The list of products includes pharmaceutical products, rubber, pasta, tea, coffee, steel and wood, among others.

The AfCFTA Agreement, which came into force on 1 January 2021 and has been signed by 54 countries, represents an integration project that will enable our economies to open up further to the world, with a view to penetrating the African market.

According to a press release issued on 6 October 2022 by the AfCFTA General Secretariat, the guided trade initiative will set the tone for testing the operational, institutional, legal and political environment within the AfCFTA.



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2nd EDITION CANEX: AFRICAN CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES



The 2022 edition of the Creative Africa Weekend (Canex Wknd 2022) was held from 25 to 27 November 2022 at the Sofitel Abidjan Hôtel Ivoire. It was organised for the first time in a French-speaking African country, Côte d'Ivoire, under the main theme: Connecting Africa's creative and cultural industries.

Canex Wknd 2022 was a pan-African exhibition event with the aim of boosting and supporting the creative and cultural industries of Africa and the diaspora in the fields of music, film, fashion, crafts, visual arts, literature, games, virtual reality, etc.

It was also designed to enable project leaders in the above-mentioned sectors to build their capacities, develop digital solutions and forge strategic partnerships to have access to markets through the implementation of the AfCFTA.

It is important to remember that Canex Wknd 2022 took place as a prelude to the third edition of the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2023), which will be held in Abidjan in November 2023.



Indeed, culture is now a powerful fuel for many economies, generating more than 2,250 billion dollars each year, or 3% of the world's GDP.

It is the fastest-growing economic sector in the world, with an annual growth rate of 7%. Côte d'Ivoire could play its part by prioritising basic training, government support for cultural industries, digital technology, cultural sharing and interactive exchanges.

Over three days, the main highlights of the show centred on capacity building, through master classes and educational programmes, interesting and in-depth round tables, B2B/B2G and networking, as well as exhibition stands on fashion, visual arts, crafts and other creative products in a dynamic market. The show closed with a mega concert featuring local and international artists.

Côte d'Ivoire and its partners, the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), the AfCFTA General Secretariat and the African union Commission, successfully exceeded the targets set for this year's event in terms of the number of guests, countries represented and transactions signed.



ADDED VALUE



Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA

Minister for Trade, Industry and SME Promotion,
Chairman of the Technical Committee of the AfCFTA-NC

Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion and Chairman of the Technical Committee of the AfCFTA-NC, gave us an interview.

What contribution will the AfCFTA make to trade and industry in Côte d'Ivoire?

In terms of benefits, it should be noted that the AfCFTA will further strengthen trade between the countries of the continent, which will give a boost to industrialisation in Côte d'Ivoire. Raw materials will be processed locally, with lower input costs. This will preserve the purchasing power of Ivorian consumers.

As you know, His Excellency Mr. Alassane OUATTARA, Champion of Agenda 2063, has constantly taken initiatives to play his full part in the success and operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Agreement also aims to liberalise trade in services and develop African disciplines on intellectual property rights, investment, competition and e-commerce.

As a result, Ivorian companies will be able to access new markets without having to worry about anti-competitive practices. Thanks to the commitment and leadership of the highest Ivorian authorities, Côte d'Ivoire was chosen as the host country for the third edition of the International Africa Trade Fair (IATF 2023) at the IATF 2021 in Durban. With more than 36 billion USD worth of transactions recorded and nearly 39,000 people taking part in this second edition, the third edition, scheduled to take place in Abidjan, should aim to achieve 40 billion USD worth of trade agreements.

What challenges must be met at national level to ensure the success of the AfCFTA?

The main challenges to the success of the AfCFTA at the level of the Ministry of Trade and Industry include publicising the Agreement at national level, and resolving constraints linked to non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation. Other major challenges include formalising businesses in the informal sector and providing appropriate support for manufacturers to increase their production and innovation capacities in order to maximise business opportunities under the AfCFTA.

The aim will be to provide institutional support to national companies to make them more competitive at the continental stage.

To meet these challenges, strong collaboration is needed with all stakeholders in the private sector, particularly the major national exporters of goods and services.

Do you have a message for private sector companies?

The Ivorian government is ready to support businesses at all levels to ensure the development of the private sector. By monitoring the Ivorian market, combating restrictive competition practices and organising the marketing of Ivorian products on the international market, private sector companies will be able to improve the quality of their products and services.

I therefore call on informal sector businesses to comply with the legislation in order to benefit from the advantages that the Government has put in place to support SMEs, and I stress the need for strong involvement from all stakeholders to ensure that the AfCFTA benefits everyone.

PANORAMA

SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE IVORIAN GERMAN COOPERATION



Côte d'Ivoire has been selected by the German Development Cooperation, through GIZ, as one of the beneficiary countries of the support project for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement. This AfCFTA support project is aimed at the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and currently covers 8 target countries. It will run for around two years, until 2024.

It is in this context that the Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, signed an implementation contract for the AfCFTA support project with the German cooperation agency GIZ on Thursday, 3 November 2022, at his office in Plateau, in the presence of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Côte d'Ivoire. The contract involves a contribution of EUR 1,000,000 (one million euros) from the government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

During the ceremony, the Minister recalled the Ivorian Government's commitment to the maintenance of bilateral relations

between Côte d'Ivoire and the Federal Republic of Germany.



PANORAMA

AfCFTA SUPPORT PROJECT PLANNING WORKSHOP



The AfCFTA National Committee (AfCFTA-NC), in collaboration with GIZ, organised a strategic planning workshop in Grand-Bassam from 14 to 16 February 2022.

The main objective of this workshop was to present the scope of the project, to put in place a roadmap and a control and monitoring mechanism for the entire support project.

Mr. Ouattara, Technical Adviser, Representative of the Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, expressed his gratitude to the German Cooperation through GIZ for its technical and strategic support since 2019 and for its ongoing commitment to its mission of supporting the development of trade and regional integration in Africa.

Mrs. BOUNDY, Executive Secretariat of the AfCFTA-NC, affirmed the readiness of the members of the AfCFTA-NC and the entire Executive Secretariat team to take all the necessary measures

to ensure the success of the support project. As for the GIZ representative, Mrs. SY, she reiterated the commitment of the German Cooperation alongside Côte d'Ivoire through the AfCFTA National Committee to work towards the full success of the implementation of the AfCFTA.

These were 3 days of fruitful exchanges with open, interactive and productive participation of all the stakeholders, which made it possible to define the 2022 operational plan for the GIZ AfCFTA support project.



PANORAMA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: A MODEL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AfCFTA

Côte d'Ivoire, an outstanding model in the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, was the host country for two delegations, namely those from Niger and Tunisia, on 14 March 2022. A programme of exchanges of experience on the institutionalisation and operationalisation of the AfCFTA National Committees was organised by the AfCFTA National Committee of Côte d'Ivoire (AfCFTA-NC) in collaboration with GIZ.

Minister in charge of Trade, reiterated the Ivorian Government's commitment to continue implementing trade and bilateral relations in priority sectors in order to reap the full benefits of the AfCFTA. The German Cooperation, for its part, expressed its determination to continue its efforts to support the implementation of the AfCFTA, through Dr. Benjamin LAAG, Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire.



This programme, which brought together Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Tunisia on 14, 15 and 16 March 2022, is part of the support project for the implementation of the AfCFTA at continental, regional and national levels, led by German Cooperation through GIZ.

The exchange programme was attended by the African Union Commission and a wide range of stakeholders, including customs colonels, general and central directors, experts from central banks and the Ministries of Trade and Industry of the three countries.

The exchange visit by the Tunisian and Nigerian delegations began at the premises of our country's AfCFTA National Committee (AfCFTA-NC), located at Deux Plateaux Vallons in the commune of Cocody (Abidjan). On this occasion, Mrs. Fatoumata Fofana BOUNDY, in her capacity as Executive Secretary of the aforementioned Committee, presented the institutional model.

The main objective of this meeting between stakeholders from Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Tunisia was to share experiences on the process of institutionalising National Committees within the framework of the AfCFTA, as well as best practices in the implementation of the Agreement. Mrs. Mariama KONE, Technical Advisor representing Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA,



Côte d'Ivoire, an outstanding model for the implementation of the AfCFTA, welcomed two delegations, from Niger and Tunisia, on 14 March 2022. The Côte d'Ivoire AfCFTA National Committee (AfCFTA-NC), in collaboration with GIZ, organised a programme of exchanges of experience on the institutionalisation and operationalisation of AfCFTA national committees.

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and Tunisia was to share experiences on the process of institutionalising National Committees within the framework of the AfCFTA, as well as best practices in the implementation of the Agreement. Mrs. Mariama KONE, Technical Advisor representing Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister in charge of Trade, reiterated the Ivorian Government's commitment to continue implementing trade and bilateral relations in priority sectors in order to reap the full benefits of the AfCFTA. The German Cooperation, for its part, expressed its determination to continue its efforts to support the implementation of the AfCFTA, through Dr. Benjamin LAAG, Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire.



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A DELEGATION FROM MADAGASCAR AT THE AfCFTA IVOIRIAN SCHOOL

After Tunisia and Niger, it was the turn of a delegation from Madagascar, an island state located in the Indian Ocean and geographically linked to the African continent, to be the guest of Côte d'Ivoire for two days. The trip, planned by Madagascar's Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and Consumer Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was a prelude to the organisation of the "National Dialogue on the AfCFTA" workshop on 28 November 2022.

It was against this backdrop that the Malagasy delegation, led by its Director General of Foreign Trade, Mrs. RAZAFIMANDIMBY Sadiah, travelled to Abidjan from 17 to 18 November 2022 for a benchmarking exercise to draw inspiration from Ivorian best practice and to convince the Malagasy private sector to sign up and get involved with a view to ratifying the Agreement. A series of visits to key actors was initiated to observe and understand the Ivorian model. The National Committee, the Ivorian Employers' Association: the General Confederation of Enterprises of Côte d'Ivoire (CGECI), the General Directorate of Foreign Trade (DGCE), the Centre for the Promotion of Investments in Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI) and the Single Window for Foreign Trade (GUCE) were consulted by the Malagasy executives.

Hosted by the AfCFTA-NC in the 2 Plateaux neighborhood of Abidjan, the delegation was given a presentation on the institutional and legal framework and the overview of the overall situation of the country. During the meeting, a number of concerns were raised, namely: the process for the full inclusion of the Ivorian private sector, and the way in which the AfCFTA-NC operates and is financed.

This was an opportunity to recall all the actions undertaken by the Champion of Agenda 2063, His Excellency, Mr. Alassane Ouattara, since the signing of the Agreement. Moreover, the active involvement of the Ivorian private sector is explained by its inclusion in the consultations from the outset of the negotiations.

Discussions with the other stakeholders focused on market access issues, the removal of barriers at country level, mechanisms to alleviate the fears of the Malagasy private sector actors, the methodology for drawing up the National Export Strategy, investment incentives in Côte d'Ivoire, and the correlation between the Ivorian investment code and the AfCFTA (Foreign Direct Investment). The visit ended at the Single Window for Foreign Trade (GUCE), with a presentation of the one-stop transactional trade platform.



PANORAMA

THE AfCFTA: AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY



Following the working session of 7 March 2022 between the Executive Secretary of the AfCFTA-NC and the Director General of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, it emerged that capacity building activities on the AfCFTA should be organised for national diplomatic actors in person and with its representations by videoconference. As part of the awareness-raising and information activities undertaken since its creation, this recommendation led the AfCFTA-NC team to the office of the Director General of Economic Diplomacy on 23 March 2022 for to share a presentation. This meeting provided an opportunity for the AfCFTA-NC experts to present the various opportunities offered by the AfCFTA Agreement, the issues and challenges for Côte d'Ivoire and beyond, and the state of implementation at both national and continental level. The National Committee also mentioned the outreach activities undertaken to encourage the public administration to take ownership of the Agreement, with a view to supporting the private sector, the backbone of this pan-African dream. This much-appreciated presentation gave rise to such respondents as,

the assessment of the implementation, the measures taken to avoid a failure of the AfCFTA, the question of the common currency, apprehensions given the difficulties of our national champions to export.

"Our leaders, aware of their responsibility in this gigantic project, are hard at work with the General Secretariat of the AfCFTA to ensure the success of this pan-African vision. However, beyond politics, we must all get involved, from the peasant to the most senior official in the public administration, because the development of our country is the responsibility of us all", was the response of Mrs. BOUNDY, Executive Secretary of the AfCFTA-NC, who invited economic diplomacy to work in synergy in the collection of information to draw up "country fact sheets" to be made available to economic operators.

As a result of these fruitful discussions, Dr. MEITE VAFLAHI, Director General of Economic Diplomacy, undertook to create a formal framework for collaboration and to extend the economic diplomacy/private sector consultation framework to the National Committee. This was followed by the setting up of focal points for the design of "country fact sheets". This was a sign of the will to work closely together to achieve common objectives, and to contribute to the positioning and influence of Côte d'Ivoire in the concert of nations. In essence, this initiative, which was appreciated by the Ivorian diplomatic delegation, enabled joint projects to be identified with the aim of strengthening Côte d'Ivoire's commercial presence in other African countries and attracting investors.

PANORAMA

THEMATIC WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETINGS



The Technical Committee is one of the bodies of the National Committee created by presidential decree on 30 May 2018. It has Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) responsible for examining issues relating to the various protocols.

These working groups are set up at national level to prepare for negotiations, harmonise existing national strategies, exchange views on key issues and define national positions. The meetings of the TWG are held prior to the meetings of the AfCFTA Secretariat.

They have the objective of contributing the expertise and skills of all the structures involved or linked to the protocol in order to defend the interests of Côte d'Ivoire at regional and continental level. They will help to apply the Agreement when it becomes operational.

The TWGs established depend on the number of existing protocols. To date, eight TWGs have been set up. These are the TWGs for:

- Trade in Goods;
- Trade in Services;
- Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR);
- Fair Competition policy;
- Investments;
- E-commerce.

It should be recalled that the organisation of the 2022 TWG meetings was done in collaboration with the German Cooperation through the GIZ and with the institutional support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion.

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TWG ON COMPETITION



The first meeting of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Competition Policy was held on Friday, 27 May 2022, in the Attoban conference room of the Competition Commission.

The purpose of the meeting, held in preparation for the fifth meeting of the Competition Policy Committee, which took place from 30 May to 2 June 2022 in Accra, Ghana, was to assess the current situation, review the protocol, and formulate recommendations to define Côte d'Ivoire's national position.

The recommendations and position of Côte d'Ivoire on the draft protocol on competition policy under negotiation are as follows:

- Distinguish between anti-competitive practices and consumer protection law
- Provide for regulations and directives
- Include a directive on the functioning of the central authority.

- Define the market share threshold;
- Define what constitutes a dominant position;
- Set out the criteria for identifying an abuse;
- Review the translation of the protocol;
- Refer, where necessary, to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which has recognized expertise in terms of competition.



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TWG ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The second meeting of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protocol took place on 08 June 2022 at the Ivorian Office of Intellectual Property (OIPI) on the 5th floor of the “Industrie” building in Plateau.

Its purpose was to analyse the draft structure and key elements of the protocol on Intellectual Property Rights, enabling Côte d'Ivoire to present its perspective on this continental project. The meeting concluded with fruitful and dynamic exchanges, the outcomes of which were shared with the negotiating team.

After analysing the document, the TWG on the intellectual property rights clarified three axes:

- Point 40: The TWG emphasized critical issues, including:
 - The use of flexibility.
 - Alignment with national regulations.
 - Adoption of a progressive approach (harmonisation and standardisation).

- Point 41: The third part of the proposed protocol addresses "IPR standards (standard establishment)."
- Point 44: The TWG underscored the need to maintain the operation of existing regional institutional bodies, OAPI and ARIPO, and to establish cooperation mechanisms with these institutions. Cooperation with national intellectual property agencies was also deemed essential.

The TWG would like it to be specified that this concerns the establishment of minimum standards. It would also be appropriate to include the issue of the settlement of disputes relating to intellectual property in the draft protocol.



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TWG ON E-COMMERCE



As a prelude to the regional stakeholder consultations on e-commerce, a meeting of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on e-commerce was held on 02 August 2022 at the Directorate of Promotion and International Economic Cooperation (DPCEI) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the organisation and operation of the group, present the current state of e-commerce in Côte d'Ivoire, and explore possible approaches and elements to be included in the AfCFTA protocol on digital trade. At the end of the meeting, a few recommendations were shared, namely:

- Pooling various payment methods (bank cards, mobile money) ;
- Extending the Interbank Monetary Union (GIM) to include AfCFTA stakeholders or establishing an interbank system covering the entire zone to reduce costs associated with payment delivery

- Establishing an authority to monitor the quality of services and the commitments of customers/sellers in e-commerce.
- Accelerating the implementation of the "Port Community System (PCS)" project by GUCE CI to optimise, manage, and automate the fluidity of logistics processes: simplifying remote customs procedures, warehouse management, and tracking goods from import to delivery.
- Encouraging e-commerce solutions specifically designed for rural areas, where a majority of the population is unconnected and often illiterate.

PANORAMA

TWG ON INVESTMENTS



The members of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Investment held a meeting on 27 July 2022 at the Center for Investment Promotion (CEPICI). The purpose of the meeting was, on the one hand, to present the points of the continental negotiations of the protocol on investment and, on the other hand, to reflect on the various outstanding points of discussion, namely the transfer of funds, indigenous peoples, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the pan-African agency and dispute settlement. The meeting's recommendations included the following points:

- Intensifying efforts to raise awareness among businesses about the AfCFTA Agreement and the associated challenges;
- Adapting training programs to align with current realities;
- Integrating an entrepreneurial culture into educational curricula;
- Emphasising the principle of reciprocity between Côte d'Ivoire and other countries in trade agreements;
- Developing and training local businesses to face up to competition, and implementing a policy of positive economic discrimination.



PANORAMA

AfCFTA: A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers enormous opportunities, with a bright future for women entrepreneurs in Côte d'Ivoire and Africa. Ivorian women entrepreneurs are getting ready to seize this opportunity. With this in mind, a conference was held on Saturday 23 April 2022 by the Women in Logistics and Transport Côte d'Ivoire Association (WiLAT CI).

The conference, entitled “The AfCFTA and women entrepreneurs in Côte d'Ivoire: what are their expectations?” was attended by a number of experts, including Mrs. Fatoumata Fofana Boundy, Executive Secretary of the CN-AfCFTA, Claude Aman, Director of Logistics Solutions at Bolloré, and Mrs. Séphora Kodjo, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Sephis Foundation.

The event brought together around a hundred women working in the logistics and transport sectors in Côte d'Ivoire. The aim of the event was to inform the association's members about the AfCFTA Agreement, to share experiences in the transport sector and the challenges to be met in this sector compared with the AfCFTA,

so as to enable them to achieve better performance in the future. As a reminder, the AfCFTA-NC has made the promotion of women's participation in trade one of its priorities, in relation to Axis 6 of its national strategy for implementing the Agreement. Mrs. BOUNDY reminded participants of the importance of the AfCFTA Agreement and urged them to formalise their activities and prepare to take full advantage of it.

It was an enriching conference that ended on a note of encouragement for Ivorian women entrepreneurs from the Executive Secretary of AfCFTA-NC, who put it so well in these words: *"Africa remains our continent, and our duty is to develop it as women entrepreneurs, despite the challenges we face"*.



PANORAMA

THE AfCFTA-NC AND THE MINISTRY FOR WOMEN, FAMILY AND CHILDREN REITERATE THEIR COMMITMENTS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AfCFTA.

Following the presentation by experts from the AfCFTA Executive Secretariat, a series of pertinent questions were raised to better understand the AfCFTA and its implications for women engaged in trade.

At the conclusion of the meeting, one of the recommendations was to translate and disseminate the Agreement's message in several local languages to reach a larger number of women.



On Wednesday, 13 April 2022, the National Committee of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) held a working session with the Ministry of Women, Family, and Children (MFFE) to discuss the AfCFTA.

This initiative to raise awareness and widely share information about the Agreement among stakeholders, as part of the national implementation strategy, allowed MFFE staff to learn about the opportunities offered by the Agreement.

During this awareness session, Mr. DJIKE Raymond Claude, Chief of Staff representing the Minister in charge of women's affairs, expressed gratitude to the Minister of Trade, Industry, and SME Promotion, Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, for this inclusive approach. According to the Chief of Staff, strong leadership and full participation of women in the AfCFTA will enable them to gain the necessary tools for exporting and contribute to enhanced performance of the Ivorian economy.



PANORAMA

DIABO: WOMEN SENSITIZED IN EXPORT PROCEDURES UNDER THE AfCFTA



processing sites (the women's factory) and the Diabo dam. It was a landscape of diversified crops that was presented to discover the economic potential of the Botro region through women exporters.

The Executive Secretary of the AfCFTA and the President of the said association undertook to carry out joint actions in the interests of the women of Diabo as part of the implementation of the AfCFTA. As a reminder, this activity is part of the implementation of axis 6 of the national strategy for the implementation of the Agreement, which is to promote the participation of women and young people in trade.

The aim of the capacity-building workshop for the women of the "DIABO VILLE EMERGENTE" association, held on Thursday 25 August in the department of Botro, more specifically at the youth centre in the Diabo sub-prefecture, was to build capacity and enable the women of Diabo to have knowledge of the documents and procedures required for exporting under the AfCFTA.

Invited by the President of the "Diabo ville émergente" association, Mrs. Rebecca YAO, Mrs. Fatoumata Fofana BOUNDY, Executive Secretary of the AfCFTA-NC, stressed the importance for the AfCFTA-NC of helping to build women's capacities and equip them better so that they can take full advantage of the opportunities and challenges of the AfCFTA Agreement.

The workshop on exporting in the AfCFTA was marked by several sessions, including a presentation of the AfCFTA Agreement, its challenges and opportunities for women exporters, and a focus on the various regulatory, legal, financial and logistical aspects of exporting in the AfCFTA. The AfCFTA-NC teams then visited production sites (hectares of rice fields),



PANORAMA

WOMEN AND YOUNG EXPORTERS AT THE HEART OF AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION



The AfCFTA-NC, in collaboration with the Côte d'Ivoire Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI-CI), organised training and awareness-raising workshops for women and young exporters on the AfCFTA, held in Korhogo on 11 August and in San-Pedro on 1 September 2022.

The main aim of these workshops was to present the content of the AfCFTA Agreement, as part of an effort to raise awareness and train women and young exporters, thereby promoting effective adoption and interaction with AfCFTA tools.



It is worth noting that these workshops are part of the implementation of Axis One (1) and Six (6) of the national strategy for the AfCFTA Agreement. This initiative, spearheaded by the AfCFTA-NC and

CCI-CI, was warmly welcomed by local authorities and representatives of the host towns. They expressed their gratitude to Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, for selecting their towns to host this series of training and awareness-raising workshops on exporting within the framework of the AfCFTA.

The authorities also encouraged participants to take full advantage of this opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and capacities on export-related concepts under the AfCFTA.

Mrs. Fatoumata Fofana BOUNDY, Executive Secretary of the AfCFTA-NC, reaffirmed the Ivorian Government's dedication and commitment to making Côte d'Ivoire a model in the implementation of the AfCFTA. She urged women and young exporters to prioritise certification and compliance with standards, as these are key to enhancing the competitiveness of Ivorian companies.

PANORAMA

WOMEN AND YOUNG EXPORTERS AT THE HEART OF AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION

These workshops were each held over one day, with presentations on six (06) specific sessions related to the AfCFTA and as follows:

- Understanding the AfCFTA and the ECOWAS
- Exporting within the AfCFTA
- Electronic commerce
- Cross-border trade
- Exploring business opportunities in the AfCFTA
- Operational tools in the AfCFTA.

Through a series of very constructive discussions, the participants shared the different challenges to which they've found themselves confronted,

which included difficulties related to product certification, roadside hassles and the development of production facilities.

They had enriching training sessions on exporting to the AfCFTA, exploring business opportunities in the AfCFTA and operational tools in the AfCFTA. Through very constructive discussions, the participants compared and shared their experiences and appreciated the opportunities offered to more than a hundred women and young exporters from the various towns visited by the AfCFTA-NC and CCI-CI teams. Bouaké and Abidjan will be the next venues for this series of awareness-raising and information workshops for women and young exporters on the AfCFTA.



PANORAMA

WOMEN AND YOUNG EXPORTERS AT THE HEART OF AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION

KORHOGO



SAN-PEDRO



PANORAMA

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON WOMEN IN TRADE



In accordance with Axis 6 of the AfCFTA Agreement, relating to the new protocol on women and young people in trade, the National Committee, in collaboration with GIZ, organised the second national consultation on women in cross-border trade on 25 August 2022 in Bouaké.

During this activity, the agents of the National Committee informed and sensitised women exporters about the AfCFTA Agreement. They urged them to find out more about the AfCFTA and the opportunities available to them, so that they could take full advantage of them. GIZ also conducted a participatory analysis of their needs and challenges with a view to drawing up proposals for support measures for their cross-border trade activities.

The women traders who took part in the consultation belonged to women's associations and were individual entrepreneurs operating in the following sectors of activity:

- Textile;
- E-commerce;
- Agro-Food;
- cosmetics and
- Crafts.

The consultation was based on a participatory approach built around the collection of qualitative data. This first-hand data was produced on the basis of interviews, mainly focus groups.

At the end of this second national consultation, women traders are now aware of the opportunities offered by the implementation of the AfCFTA, and their constraints and challenges to market access are better identified. The results and recommendations of this activity were shared with the negotiating team for Côte d'Ivoire, in order to defend the interests of Ivorian women working in the trade sector.



PANORAMA

BLOGGERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AfCFTA IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE



The AfCFTA National Committee organised an afterwork dedicated to bloggers in Côte d'Ivoire. The event, which brought together some fifty (50) bloggers and influencers, was held under the theme: “What contribution can digital technology make to for a better implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement?”.

This event was part of the implementation of axis one (1) of the national strategy, with the main objective of presenting the AfCFTA Agreement to bloggers in Côte d'Ivoire and encouraging them to relay information for the benefit of the stakeholders concerned.

The aim was also to increase bloggers' knowledge of the state of implementation of the AfCFTA at national level, in order to step up the National Committee's digital communications.

Mrs. Mariama KONE, representative of the Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, opened the proceedings. In her speech, she recalled the essential role of bloggers as focal points for transmitting concrete and accurate information on the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

She also took the opportunity to solemnly request the commitment of all web actors in supporting the relays and disseminating relevant information on the AfCFTA agreement, its challenges and opportunities at national level.

The presidents of the various bloggers' associations present at the event responded favourably to this request. the National Bloggers' Union of Côte d'Ivoire (UNBCI), headed by Mr. Foster N'CHO, and the Bloggers' Association of Côte d'Ivoire (ABCI), chaired by Mrs. Rita Pascale KWAMINAN, respectively expressed their desire to support the AfCFTA-NC in its communication initiatives.

One of their recommendations was to establish a network of AfCFTA-NC ambassadors, made up of bloggers and national influencers, who would help to strengthen the AfCFTA-NC's communication strategy by posting content (articles, photos, videos) on social media.



It was a rewarding afterwork, marked by a panel led by bloggers and young entrepreneurs, who shared their views on their expectations of the AfCFTA and the involvement of young Ivorian entrepreneurs in the implementation of the Agreement.

The digital communication carried out around this activity enabled some 16,000 people to be informed about the AfCFTA Agreement via the various social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok).



PANORAMA

AFCTA AGREEMENT PRESENTED TO SIX (6) BORDER POSTS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

As one of the priority actions of the AfCFTA National Committee's action plan, the awareness-raising roadshows at border crossings are part of the ongoing activities to publicise the Agreement among public and private administrations.

The AfCFTA-NC was accompanied on this roadshow by the National Border Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNFCI). The CNFCI was chosen because of its role in assisting the government in designing, defining and implementing national policies and strategies for managing Côte d'Ivoire's borders.

This awareness-raising campaign, aimed at the forces of law and order, Customs, Gendarmerie, Police, Water and Forestry services, as well as private entities (forwarding agents, customs agents, etc.), whose areas of activity could have an interest with the AfCFTA, was intended to raise awareness about the legal instruments of the Agreement.

To this end, the AfCFTA-NC and CNFCI teams were welcomed by the following localities: Noé, on 19 August. Pogo and Laleraba, on 30 August. Gbeleban, on 2 September and Prolo, on 13 September 2022. The purpose of these events was to discuss the provisions of the AfCFTA Agreement and to create a framework for exchanges and the necessary collaboration with the forces of law and order. As a reminder, these activities were chaired by the prefectural authorities of each of the towns visited.

Mrs. Fatoumata Fofana BOUNDY, Executive Secretary of the AfCFTA-NC, the sub-prefect of Noé, the Aboisso Regional Trade Directorate,

and all the targeted stakeholders were present at the Noé border post, which marked the launch and start of this series of activities.

During this campaign, it was found that some participants were unaware of the existence of the AfCFTA-NC, its usefulness and its implications, despite all the awareness-raising activities already undertaken by the AfCFTA-NC. Through various presentations and discussions, border post officials were given the information they need to prepare for the Agreement's entry into force and to provide better support for cross-border trade.

Discussions focused on setting up mechanisms to facilitate sub-regional trade, reopening borders, reciprocity in the application of legislation, non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), users' ignorance of the law, porous border, language barriers, etc.

It was recommended that these activities be extended to other border crossings, with the involvement of other public stakeholders. A large proportion of participants also expressed a keen interest in finding out more about NTBs.

A total of 230 agents from five (5) border posts were made aware of the legal instruments of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) during this mission.



SOME IMAGES FROM THE ROADSHOW



OUANGOLODOUGOU



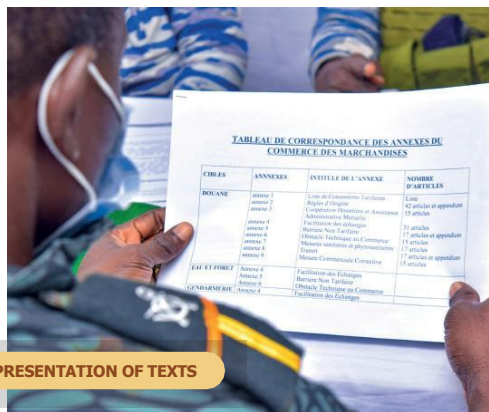
Questions / Answers



GBÉLÉBAN - ODIÉNNÉ



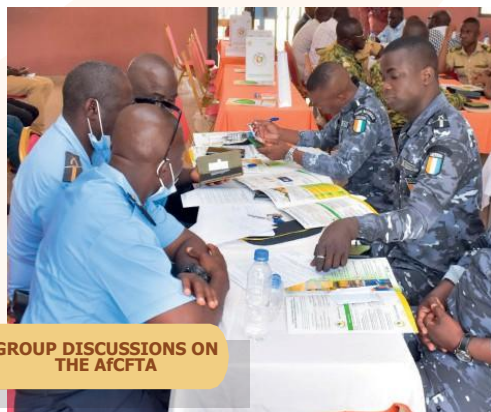
NOÉ



PRESENTATION OF TEXTS



TABOU



GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE AfCFTA

PANORAMA

AfCFTA, A WAY OF EMPOWERING WOMEN

The AfCFTA-NC's participation in the SAPAIF conference on the AfCFTA fits in perfectly with its mission to promote intra-African trade and is part of the implementation of axes 1 and 6 of the national strategy of the AfCFTA Agreement.



The second edition of the International Exhibition for Women's Autonomy and Innovation (SAPAIF) was held on Friday 26 August 2022 in the town of Bouaké, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Nassénéba TOURE, Minister for Women, the Family and Children. The aim of the event was to create a major platform for networking, meetings, training and exchanges between women entrepreneurs, investors and private and public institutions in order to promote African women.



The specific aim was to highlight the economic assets and constraints faced by women in Côte d'Ivoire and in Africa in general.

The AfCFTA-NC experts presented the AfCFTA Agreement, its opportunities, issues and challenges, with a particular focus on the implementation of the AfCFTA, which would help to stimulate long-term economic growth in African countries.



On this occasion, the participants were urged to formalise themselves in order to be ready to take full advantage of this pan-African vision.



PANORAMA

A COTTON-TEXTILE AND CLOTHING TRADE FAIR TO PROMOTE ACTORS IN THE SECTOR



The first International Cotton-Textile-Clothing Exhibition of Abidjan (SICTHA) was held from 23 to 28 November 2022, with the participation of the AfCFTA National Committee.

For six days, the Palais des Sports in Treichville hosted stakeholders from the cotton, textile, and clothing industry, who showcased business opportunities and highlighted value chain activities aimed at increasing the sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Côte d'Ivoire. In line with the implementation of axis one (1) of its national strategy, which focuses on "national ownership of the Agreement by stakeholders", the Executive Secretariat of the AfCFTA-NC participated in a panel discussion titled: "Intra-community trade rules and the creation of a business network in the UEMOA - ECOWAS area."

During the event, a representative of the Executive Secretariat of the AfCFTA-NC presented the opportunities offered by the Agreement to craftsmen, alongside the various conditions and mechanisms to optimize access to this continental market.

In addition to addressing recurring challenges such as road and customs harassment, export difficulties, and low levels of industrialization,

the representative highlighted that the opinions of priority sectors, particularly the textile industry, are being considered in ongoing negotiations.

Indeed, the AfCFTA-NC works tirelessly to ensure that all measures are taken at the national level to enable Côte d'Ivoire to fully benefit from this common market.

The cotton sector in Côte d'Ivoire continues to grow rapidly. For the 2020-2021 season, Côte d'Ivoire achieved an unprecedented production level of over 550,000 tonnes of seed cotton, ranking it as the 2nd largest cotton-producing country in the sub-region after Benin (730,000 tonnes), and ahead of Burkina Faso (492,600 tonnes) and Mali (147,200 tonnes).

Several countries, including Mali, Ghana, and Benin, participated in this landmark event.



PANORAMA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE DEVELOPS A STRATEGIC TRADE ROADMAP UNDER THE AFCFTA FRAMEWORK



The AfCFTA-NC, with technical and financial support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), has commissioned a trade sector study for priority products in five (5) African Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

This study is part of the implementation of axis four (4) of the national strategy, which is the development and implementation of a proactive sectoral trade strategy. It aims to identify opportunities for Ivorian products in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Led by a consortium of five (5) specialised consultants from each of the regions, the general planning of this study is based on five steps, namely the following:

- Launch meeting for the study
- Scoping workshop, the structure of the reports and the summary of the Ivorian products identified
- Workshop to present the consolidated report, as well as the five (5) preliminary study reports on the 5 market
- Workshop to present the consolidated report and the 5 sub-regional reports
- Seminar to present 6 reports (one consolidated report and 5 sub-regional reports).

The workshop to review the report on priority products, which is part of the second step of the study, was held on Tuesday 29 November 2022 at the Noom Hôtel, Abidjan Plateau, from 8am to 3pm. It followed the virtual meeting to review the scoping report which was held on 02 November 2022. As part of the study, this session aimed to identify priority Ivorian products in high demand in the RECs, in order to define a list that will be used to conduct the work.

It was attended by some fifty business leaders. Among those present were Trade Support Institutions, actors in the transport, technology and information sectors, and agro-processors of products such as cashew, coffee-cocoa, cotton, oilseeds, spices, tropical fruits and shea butter.

The workshop provided an opportunity to present the context, methodology, structure of the overall report and the final results expected from the study. These results will be made available to the Ivorian private sector, Trade Support Institutions and umbrella organisations, with concrete information on Africa's potential markets with a

a view to better positioning the country within the AfCFTA, as indicated by Mr. Alain KONAN, Representative of the Minister in charge of Trade, Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA.

Mr. Amadou DIOUF, UNECA representative, praised the political commitment of the Ivorian government. According to him, Côte d'Ivoire is a fine example of the institutionalisation of a National Committee, the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and the inclusion of the various stakeholders.

During the workshop, the criteria for prioritising products and services in the AfCFTA-NC National Strategy were also presented by the lead consultant.



PANORAMA

AfCFTA OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED AT THE FIRST EDITION OF "INDUSTRY FESTIVAL"



The first edition of the Industry Festival was held from 1 to 3 July 2022 at the National Institute of Youth and Sports (INJS) on the theme of "Industrialisation, a lever for growth and structural transformation of the Ivorian economy". Organised by Ceryz Communication with the support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion and the INJS, the industry festival will be held every year and aims to promote the industrial sector among young people in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Director General for Industry, Mr. Emmanuel Tra Bi, opened the 1st edition of the Industry Festival, followed by a visit of the exhibition stands. During the visit, the Director General of Industry pointed out that the Industry Festival is an opportunity for companies to showcase their expertise and high-quality products. Dozens of companies had set up stands where they could show the public their products and services, explaining the stages and methods of production.

AfCFTA-NC experts took part in a panel discussion on the theme of "Competitiveness of Ivorian industry in the AfCFTA era".

They presented Côte d'Ivoire's industrial potential, industrial development policy guidelines and national investment in the industrial sector.

During these discussions, the experts recalled that the government's vision is to strengthen the production-processing link and encourage the industrial sector to contribute more to GDP growth and create more jobs. The promotion of this sector must be strengthened.



PANORAMA

PREPARATORY CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE LIBREVILLE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



In prelude to the Libreville Council of Ministers (CDM), scheduled for 27-28 October 2022, the AfcFTA-NC had a preparatory consultative meeting on 19 October 2022. The purpose of the CDM is to approve and recommend for adoption the draft Protocols on Investment, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights.

The general objective of the meeting was to define Côte d'Ivoire's position on all outstanding issues arising from the draft Protocols on Intellectual Property Rights, Investment and Competition Policy.

Chaired by the Director General of Foreign Trade, Mr. Fadiga KALADJI, the meeting brought together experts and key actors from the various thematic working groups concerned. The private sector was strongly represented, as was the public administration.

The various contributions made by the participants made it possible to formulate the national position on the outstanding points of the protocols on Intellectual Property Rights, Investment and Competition Policy.



PANORAMA

SECOND EDITION OF THE UNIVERSITY DAY ON AfCFTA



The second AfCFTA University Day was held on 21 December 2022, under the patronage of the Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA.

This day is an initiative of the AfCFTA National Committee in collaboration with the Student Network for the Promotion of Intellect and Leadership (REVILA - Côte d'Ivoire) and the NGO Women at the Heart of African Development (FCDA). It is part of the implementation of axis six (6) of the AfCFTA-NC's national strategy, which is to promote the participation of women and young people in trade. The aim of the event was to help promote the AfCFTA among students and young entrepreneurs, and to showcase local know-how.

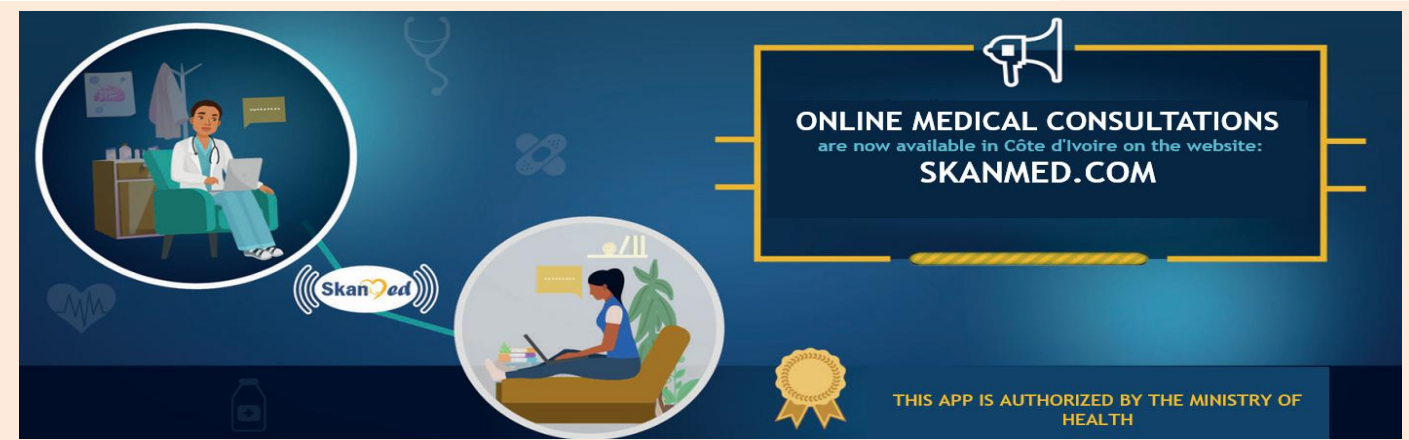
In addition, it aimed to present the AfCFTA Agreement, its challenges and opportunities, with a view to better preparing Côte d'Ivoire's young people to take full advantage of it.

Around two hundred (200) students and young entrepreneurs took part in this university day. The day was enriched by presentations on the AfCFTA Agreement, as well as exchanges and sharing of ideas on the subject: "AfCFTA and digital transformation: what opportunities for youth employment?".

The representative of the Executive Secretary of AfCFTA-NC made a point of appealing to the participants, encouraging them to find out more about the Agreement, to commit themselves to its dissemination and to contributing to the streamlining of this pan-African vision shared by our founding fathers.



ORI'DJIDJI



In the current context of technological development, an Ivorian e-health company founded by Anicet AMANI has created a medical teleconsultation application to support patients. SkanMed is the Ori'djidji (The Real Deal) of this second issue.

With a master's degree in science and technology option EEAI (Electronics Electrotechnics Computer Automation) from the University of Cocody in Abidjan, Anicet AMANI specialised in application development (Certified in the JAVA programming language).

After 10 years of corporate experience, he launched Akounda in 2018, a voluntary association that trained students in the JAVA script language for free for a year. Then Skan Technologies, a company specialising in application development, in 2019 with the SkanTicket solution (electronic ticketing solution), and SkanMed in 2020.

SkanMed is a medical teleconsultation web platform that enables patients to contact general practitioners or specialists via nurses or doctors. The platform offers a range of services for patients, public and private health centres, individuals, companies and associations. According to its creator, the idea behind SkanMed came from the realities of the lack of physicians practising in rural Health Centers and the shortage of specialist physicians.

SkanMed facilitates people's access to healthcare by enabling them to have access to specialist physicians who are not available in their areas without having to travel. With deployment already underway in the Cocody-Bingerville health district, Anicet Amani's company has set itself the target of rolling out SkanMed in the next three years.

(03) years, to be present in all public Health Centers in Côte d'Ivoire.



Aware of the problems faced by African populations, the African Continental Free Trade Area is a great opportunity for all African entrepreneurs. With an export strategy that relies on local partners to deploy their solution on the continent, SkanMed is counting on the AfCFTA-NC, the Ivorian national body that acts as an interface between Côte d'Ivoire and the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat, to support them in deploying their strategy. Mr. Amani Anicet concluded by saying: "To all entrepreneurs, be determined and believe in yourself!"

AGENDA

AfCFTA UNIVERSITY DAYS

With the support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, the Executive Secretariat of the AfCFTA National Committee will be organising AfCFTA University Days for universities in the AfCFTA. The general objective is to promote the AfCFTA and to inform, raise awareness and train the various actors in the university system, in particular young academics and future entrepreneurs in Côte d'Ivoire, about the Agreement, its challenges and opportunities. These activities will be held in three (3) towns in Côte d'Ivoire, namely:

- **Yamoussoukro** (Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB)).
- **Grand-Bassam** (International University of Grand-Bassam).
- **Abidjan** (Félix Houphouët Boigny University of Abidjan).

300 beneficiaries per university during February and March 2023.



AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA NATIONAL COMMITTEE

AfCFTA University Days

Yamoussoukro

Félix Houphouët-Boigny National Polytechnic Institute (INP-HB)

Grand-Bassam

International University of Grand-Bassam (UIGB)

Abidjan

Félix Houphouët Boigny University of Abidjan (UFHB)



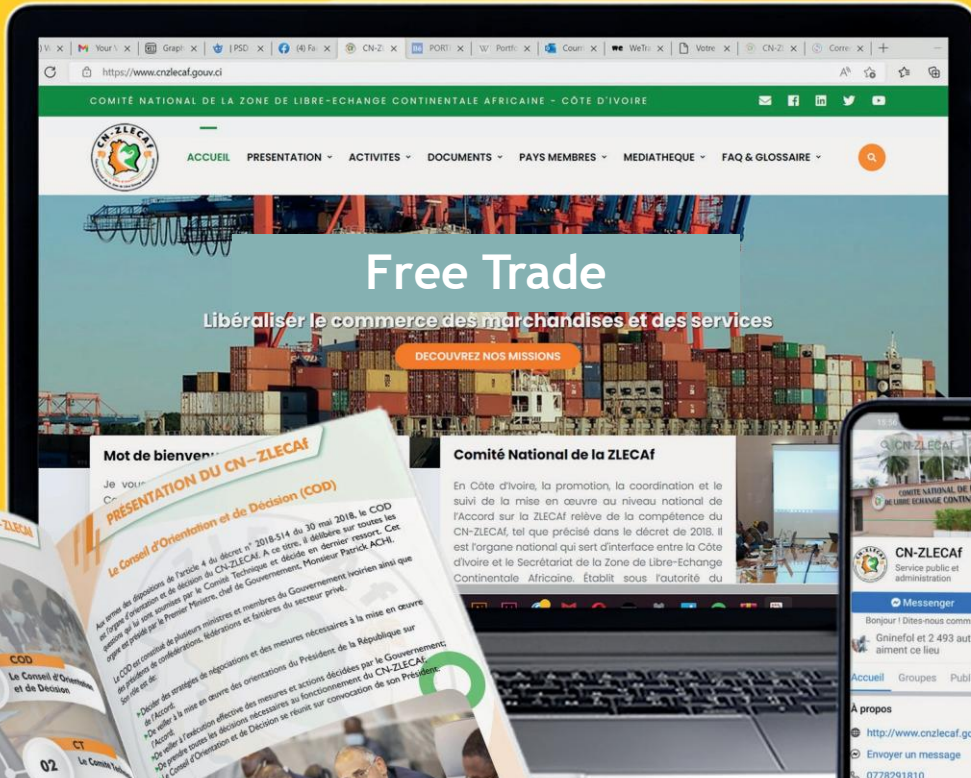


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