



## STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH TRIPARTITE MEMBER/PARTNER STATES ON COVID-19 CRISIS

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The Tripartite Task Force (TTF) is fully cognizant of the havoc that COVID-19 Pandemic continues to wreak on the Tripartite Member/Partner States and by extension, on the implementation of the Tripartite Work Programme. The TTF notes the following:

1. The resultant border closures and lockdowns are causing significant reduction in intra-Tripartite trade. The small-scale traders who are the backbone of Tripartite economies as well as transport services, tourism, distribution chains are the most affected.
2. The macro-economic impacts including reduced growth, fiscal stress and financial as well as the socio-economic impacts associated with loss of jobs, closure of learning institutions, restrictions of movements and social distancing.
3. The threats to sustainable development in Tripartite Member States occasioned by diversion of scarce resources towards prevention of the spread and treatment of the disease as well as providing relief to vulnerable groups.
4. Disruptions on supply chains as Tripartite economies and businesses struggle to procure raw materials/inputs, final goods and other supplies from global suppliers, arising from shortages of critical goods.
5. The net effect is stunted growth across the region, loss of jobs and incomes, high disease burden and increased levels of poverty.

In view of this situation, the Tripartite Task Force wishes to;

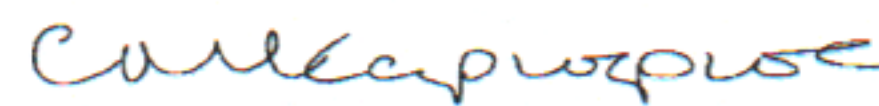
6. Re-affirm its solidarity with all the Tripartite Member/Partner States as they severally and individually work towards combating the pandemic.
7. Fully recognize and appreciate the policies and measures recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and initiatives by the African Union Commission and other Development Partners to combat COVID-19 as well as the guidelines prepared by Tripartite RECs.
8. Urge the Tripartite Member/Partner States to remain proactive and united in the fight against COVID-19, to minimize disruptions in livelihoods, businesses and transit trade.



9. Encourage the Tripartite Member/Partner States to conform to uniform standards and regional guidelines in order to minimize disruptions in the supply chain for essential goods, including food supplies across the Tripartite region.
10. Urge the Tripartite Member/Partner States to facilitate the production and availability of medical goods, including pharmaceutical and medical equipment to enhance the response to the pandemic.
11. Encourage the Tripartite Member/Partner States to facilitate cross-border movement of essential goods and services while upholding health and safety requirements.

The Tripartite Task Force will endeavor to share information and best practices amongst the Tripartite Member States and also facilitate coordination of responses to the Pandemic.

**Issued on behalf of the Tripartite Task Force**



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**Outgoing Chair of the Tripartite Task Force**

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