

International Trade Law and  
Policy for Africa's  
Development

## tralac Certificate Course

April – June 2023





**tralac** | trade law centre

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**Certificate Course: International Trade Law  
and Policy for Africa's Development**

The Trade Law Centre (tralac) is pleased to present the 2023 Certificate Course – ***International Trade Law and Policy for Africa's Development***. The course consists of three modules and provides comprehensive coverage of International Trade Law and Policy in the 21st Century, from an African perspective.

The course is designed for:

- Mid-level and senior trade policy officials and lawyers from Africa's national governments, regional and continental organisations. A limited number of scholarships are available.
- Experienced trade policy and law practitioners from non-state organisations.

The trade policy environment has been significantly impacted by recent developments, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and concomitant geo-political shifts. While trade has in recent decades lifted many millions across the world out of poverty, inequality and exclusion are still defining features of global trade and economic development. For these reasons, trade policy remains contested and important, especially for African countries. We are cognisant of the fact that of the world's 46 least developed countries, 33 are African. Several are in debt crisis; this further complicates their trade and economic policy agendas.

Trade policy connections to other areas of economic policy (including industrial, fiscal, labour market, education, and macroeconomic policies) have to be considered for their contribution to promoting inclusive growth and equitable distribution of gains and losses. This course aims to build capacity for trade law and policy making to support sustainable

development outcomes for Africa; to ensure that trade works for all, including marginalised and excluded groups, including women, youth, and informal cross-border traders.

There is renewed interest in trade and regional integration in Africa, partly as a result of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA entered into force at the end of May 2019, and negotiations are progressing towards the conclusion of the Phase 1 agenda (outstanding issues include tariff concessions and select Rules of origin, and specific commitments on the priority services sectors). Phase 2 Protocols on Investment, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights have been adopted by the African Union Assembly at the February 2023 Summit (State Parties will continue negotiations to conclude the necessary annexes to these Protocols), and negotiations on Digital Trade and Women and Youth in Trade will begin soon.

This course will focus specifically on issues relevant to the AfCFTA and Africa's broader trade and integration agenda. Africa's global trade relations will also be studied. These relationships remain important given that more than 80% of Africa's trade is still with global partners.

## Learning Modalities

Interactive, participatory learning processes, which are the foundation for adult learning modalities, are followed in this course.

Debates and discussions are actively encouraged. Exploration of complex trade law and policy problems will facilitate collective learning as we engage the new developments on Africa's trade and integration agenda. Participants are encouraged to share experiences, trade policy challenges and success stories.

The course consists of three modules and an *inter-modular* e-learning program. Before the first module participants will be required to

complete a preparatory online work program (6 hours of work will be required, and a short assignment will be submitted and assessed – feedback will be provided to each participant). This pre-course program is designed to support preparation for the first Module of the course.

Modules 1 and 2 will take place virtually, and Module 3 will be in-person (in Cape Town).

Inter-modular programme:

Between modules 1 and 2, and again between modules 2 and 3, participants will continue the inter-modular program. Each of these blocks in the inter-modular program will require 6 hours of work for the submission.

At the end of module 3, there will be an oral exam. Each participant will have a 30-minute slot. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a tralac certificate and be invited to join the tralac alumni network.

## Learning Outcomes

Participants who successfully complete the course will have:

- An understanding of the principles of inter-national trade law and policy – in a global context, and specifically as they apply in an African context
- an understanding of the complexity of trade and trade-related policy linkages, and of the trade-development nexus
- acquired tools to analyse trade data-related data, trade performance and trade law and policy developments
- be able to review and appraise current trade law and policy developments,

factoring in the complexity of trade and trade governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- be able to contribute to the development and implementation of a trade policy and regional integration strategy for your country to support development outcomes.

## Scholarships

tralac has limited scholarship funding from our donors. Applicants from Africa's national governments, regional and continental organisations are eligible for scholarship funding.

Please provide a motivation for scholarship funding (no more than 300 words), together with your application. In our selection, we will consider, specifically, applications from women and representatives from least developed countries.

## How to apply for the course?

Deadline for Applications: 28 March 2023

Applicants will receive a response by

**10 April 2023**

To apply for this course, please click on the following link:

**[APPLICATION FORM:](http://bit.ly/42njcMr)**  
**<http://bit.ly/42njcMr>**

## Training Course Outline

### Module 1: International Trade Policy and Law in the 21st Century – foundational disciplines

<b>Dates</b>	24 – 28 April 2023
<b>Topics</b>	<p><b>International trade: defining features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Global trade and investment trends: Key indicators and metrics: trade in goods (commodities, industrial goods), tariffs, non-tariff barriers, trade in services (review of restrictiveness indices for specific sectors), investment flows</li> <li>▪ Intra-Africa trade and investment overview</li> </ul> <p><b>Foundations of international trade policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Theoretical foundations of international trade policy: Absolute Advantage, Comparative Advantage &amp; Competitive Advantage, New Trade Theory (rationale for international trade, trade, and development matters)</li> <li>▪ Practical international trade policy matters: Trade Policy Management in the 21st century; scope of a 21st century trade policy strategy; intra-governmental coordination, role of non-state actors in the trade policy process; institutional architecture for trade policy making; trade negotiations and implementation of international trade agreements (country case studies by participants)</li> </ul> <p><b>Foundations of international trade law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction to public international law: sources of international law, sovereign states, international trade and investment agreements, domestic implementation of agreements (constitutional provisions) – country case studies</li> <li>▪ The multilateral trade system and its institutions</li> <li>▪ Regional Trade Arrangements</li> <li>▪ Dispute resolution and trade remedies</li> </ul>

### **Current Issues in international trade governance**

- The political economy of international trade negotiations
- Future multilateral trade governance, and Africa's global trade relations
- Africa's integration agenda: regional economic communities, continental integration and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Role of value chains and servicification of production (implications of technology developments for jobs etc.) – implications for trade governance
- Digital economy and trade developments (including fintech)
- Trade transaction costs and trade facilitation; trade remedies and safeguards
- Trade and development: distributional issues, trade and gender, climate change, youth

### **Module 2: A comprehensive International Trade Law and Policy agenda**

<b>Dates</b>	22 – 26 May 2023
<b>Topics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Trade in goods: tariffs, rules of origin, non-tariff barriers</li><li>▪ Trade facilitation (including, customs and border management, non-tariff barriers)</li><li>▪ Standards (SPS and TBT) and quality infrastructure</li><li>▪ Trade in services: market access; domestic regulation, regulatory reform, and harmonisation (focus on key sectors and sectoral regulation, e.g. financial services, transport, communications)</li><li>▪ Competition Policy</li><li>▪ Investment</li><li>▪ Intellectual Property Rights</li><li>▪ E-commerce</li><li>▪ Dispute resolution</li></ul>



### Module 3: Africa's trade and integration agenda – the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Regional Economic Communities and bilateral relations

**Dates** 5 – 9 June 2023 (in-person)

- Topics**
- African integration: origins, substantive focus, achievements, and challenges
  - Role of Institutions (African Union, Regional Institutions)
  - Regional Economic Communities (trade integration and development agenda) and the AfCFTA
  - The AfCFTA and the Tripartite Free Trade Area
  - African Continental Free Trade Area: analysis of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA, Protocol on Trade in Goods, Protocol on Trade in Services, Protocol on Dispute Resolution, ongoing negotiations in Phase 1 (tariff concessions, rules of origin, specific commitments for priority services sectors), Phase 2 negotiations (Investment, Competition, Intellectual Property), Phase 3 negotiations (Digital Trade, Women and Youth in Trade)
  - The AfCFTA and Africa's global trade agenda: Economic Partnership Agreements with EU and UK; US – AGOA; China, WTO (MC-12 outcomes and preparation for MC-13, Fisheries Agreement, Joint Statement Initiatives)
  - Trade remedies and safeguards: how can we advance our industrialisation and economic development agendas, while complying with international legal obligations?
  - Implementing the AfCFTA: entry into force and the start of trade in goods and services; entry of Phase 2 Protocols and negotiation of Phase 3 Protocols.

#### Oral Examinations



The Trade Law Centre (**tralac**) is an independent non-profit think tank with more than 20 years' experience in research, thought leadership and capacity building, supporting Africa's pursuit of improved trade to support development.

Contact: [info@tralac.org](mailto:info@tralac.org)

+27 21 880 2010

