



The AfCFTA Secretariat

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Establishment of Secretariat

- Art 13, AfCFTA Agreement:
 - “the Assembly shall establish the Secretariat, decide on its nature, location and approve its structure and budget”
- Council of Ministers:
 - Responsible for organisational structure
 - Considers staff and financial regulations
 - Consider reports and activities



AfCFTA Brief Structure

Assembly

**Dispute Settlement
Body**

Council of Ministers

**Committee of
Senior Trade
Officials**

AfCFTA Secretariat

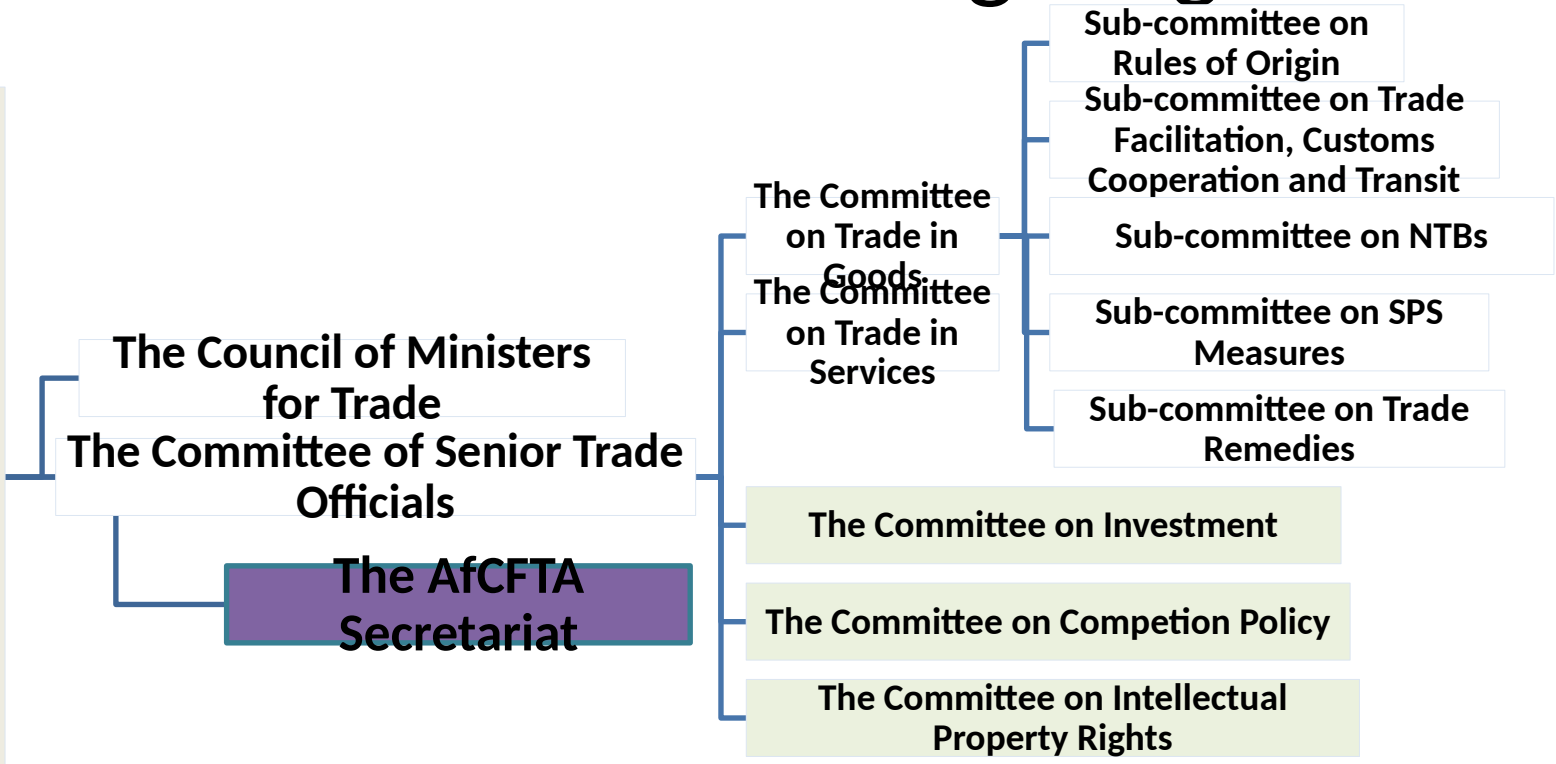


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AfCFTA Institutional Organogram

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government





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Roles and Responsibilities

- No specific mention in AfCFTA Agreement
 - To be determined by Council of Ministers
- “Functionally autonomous” institution within the AU system, with legal personality.
 - Level of autonomy – limited - within the AU structure
 - 4th AMOT (June 2017): “operational” level autonomy
 - Secretariat may make administrative and operational decisions without approval from AUC (Art. 13 (3)).
 - Run its own HR practices, policies, general administration and project management.





Roles and Responsibilities Cont'd

- Financial Autonomy?
 - Budget derived from overall AU budget so no autonomy over its own financial affairs
 - Will be subject to the laws and regulations of the AU funding system
 - Budget would need to be approved by the AU Assembly
- That said:
 - Secretariat may be able to operate autonomously even though it gets its finance from the AU.





Relationships

- AU Departments
 - Combined DTI/Econ Affairs, HRST, Infrastructure and Energy
 - Clear division of labour
 - Avoid duplication/redundancy
- RECs (*aquis* of AfCFTA)
 - Overlap in duties/functions?
- AU Strategic Partners: UNCTAD, UNECA, AfDB
- Interim Secretariat – housed in DTI
 - How to achieve seamless transition to permanence?





Administrative Functions

- What is envisaged?
 - providing administrative support for the implementation of the agreement, such as convening meetings, monitoring and evaluating the implementation process and other duties assigned to it by the Committee of Senior Officials, Council of Ministers, and the AU Assembly.
- Executive Council 18th Extraordinary Session, 2018 (Kigali, Rwanda):
 - The AUC was tasked to “develop criteria that would ensure the setting up of an efficient AfCFTA Secretariat, which would in the interim be located within the Commission”.





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Criteria for Efficient Secretariat

- Lean and fit for its purpose
- Synergy and clear division of labour between the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC Departments and RECs
- Professionalism/Principle of Merit: the posts for the AfCFTA Secretariat should be advertised and the hiring process should be conducted on competency-based and gender-sensitive criteria
- Cost - effectiveness: efficiency in allocating resources to the Secretariat
- Financial Sustainability: the AfCFTA Secretariat should be funded by Member States
- Capacity to service all meetings of the AfCFTA
- Accountability to State Parties





Proposed Functions of the Secretariat

- Coordinate, facilitate and support the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, its Protocols and Annexes
- Strategic planning and management of the AfCFTA implementation
- Facilitate the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for follow-up on the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and submit annual reports on its implementation to the Council of Ministers
- Ensure that the implementation of the AfCFTA provides equal opportunities to youth and women
- Provide administrative and technical support for the implementation and enforcement of the AfCFTA Agreement
- Serve as a depository of notifications from State Parties required under the AfCFTA Agreement and transmit such notifications to State Parties
- Convene and service meetings of the State Parties as necessary to implement the AfCFTA Agreement





Proposed Functions Cont'd

- Provide, support and facilitate technical cooperation and capacity development programmes as provided for in the Agreement
- Carry out any other secretarial responsibilities that may be assigned to it by the Council of Ministers
- Undertake trade and investment promotion activities to enhance intra-African trade
- Undertake awareness and stakeholder engagement activities to promote the AfCFTA in all member states
- Undertake periodic trade policy reviews and present reports to the Council of Ministers
- Mobilisation of funds from partners to implement the AfCFTA
- Promotion and dissemination of information on the AfCFTA to the Stakeholders
- Promotion of cooperation with other organisations to promote the objectives of the AfCFTA





Next Steps

- Proposals on the functions, structure and budget of the Secretariat:
 - Considered by 12th CTF – March 2019
 - To be considered by 15th NF – April 2019
 - recommendation to 8th AMOT (through 8th STO) for approval
 - To be approved by 8th AMOT – June 2019
 - recommendation to AU Assembly (through Executive Council) for adoption
 - To be adopted by AU Assembly – July 2019





Thank you!

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