



The African Trade Observatory

Brian Mureverwi

Trade Advisor

Dept. of Trade and Industry, AUC





Outline

- Rationale and Genesis of the ATO
- Main Functions of the ATO
- Content of the ATO
- The ATO System
- Synergies with RECs
- Relationships with AU Organs
- Relationships with other institutions
- Ownership/Sustainability
- Implementing Partners
- Stakeholder Consultation
- Next Steps





Genesis of ATO

- Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) – 18 January 2012:
 - to establish a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)
 - to endorse the Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) Action Plan
 - Architecture of the AfCFTA includes establishment of the African Union Trade Observatory (ATO)
 - to be located within the Department of Trade and Industry, AU Commission.
- Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(X) – 21 March 2018:
 - adoption and signing of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)





Main Functions of the ATO

- Main repository of qualitative and quantitative African trade data and information:
 - Collect trade and trade-related qualitative and quantitative data and information from Member States and other sources
 - Analyse trade and trade-related data and information, focusing on emerging issues such as regional value chains
 - Establish a data base for African trade that is used to publish and disseminate information on intra-African trade
 - Monitor and evaluate the implementation process and impact of the AfCFTA and the BIAT
 - Provide relevant and detailed trade and trade-related information for the private sector





Content of the ATO

- Data and information made available through the ATO will include primarily:
 - Merchandise trade flows at the most detailed level including rates of utilization of intra-Africa tariff preferences
 - customs duties (applied, preferential and bound rates)
 - Rules of Origin of intra-regional preferential rates at the product level
 - Non-tariff measures (NTMs) including information on various market regulations
 - Trade remedies taken by countries
 - Internal taxes including VAT, excise tax and others
 - Commodity prices and exchange rate indicators and
 - Trade-related performance indicators including growth rates, market shares, market concentrations and regional trade integration indexes





The ATO System

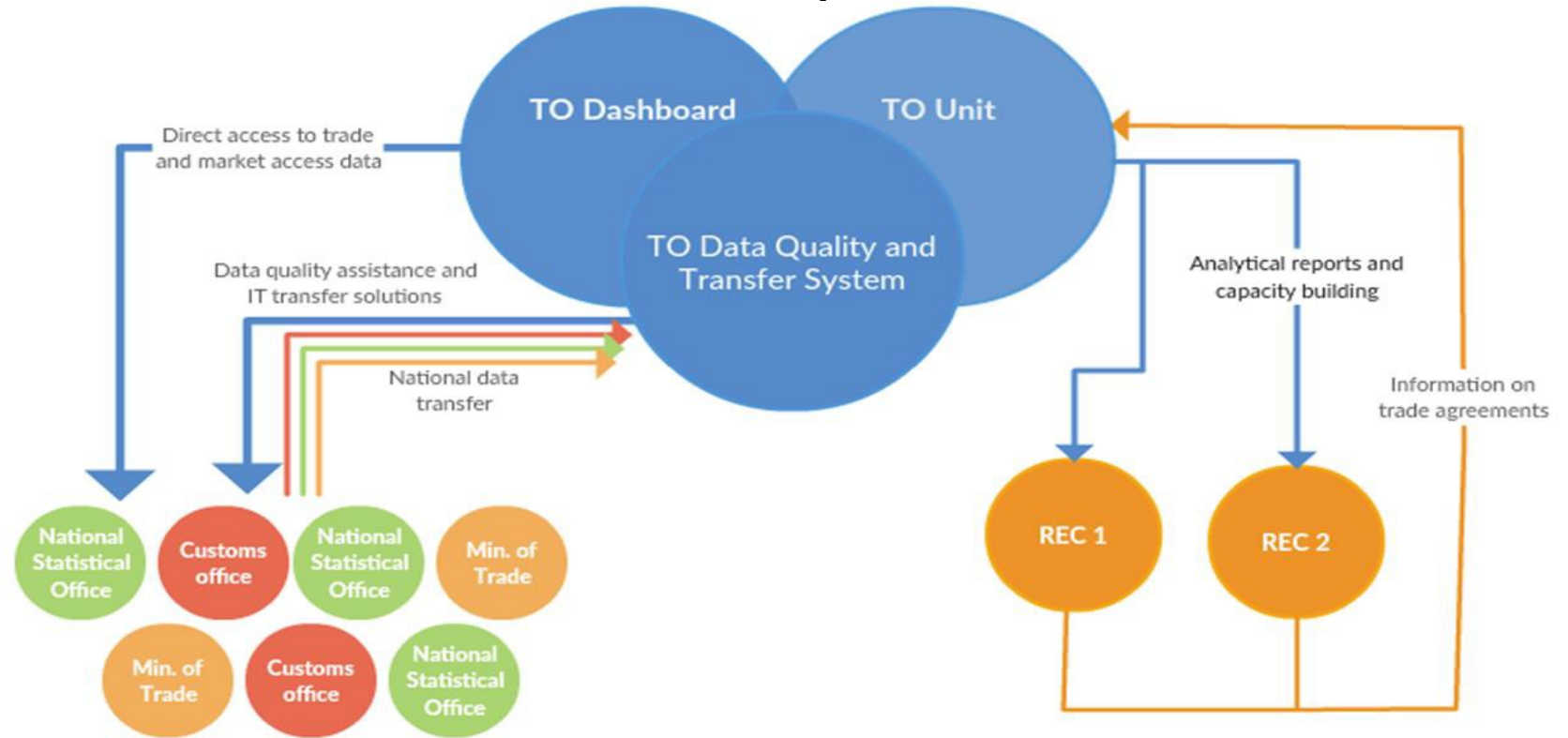
- At project completion, the ATO system will comprise of:
 - A Dashboard with two modules
 - A Data Quality and Information Transfer System
 - supported by a network of national and regional data providers
 - ATO Unit
 - An Advisory Board chaired by the AU Commission





2019 tralac Annual Conference

The ATO System





2019 tralac Annual Conference

Development of AU Trade Observatory

African Union Trade Observatory

Public Module

AUC & RECs Module

Trade related information to be made available

Trade statistics (yearly, monthly, quarterly)

Customs duties

Trade agreements

Rules of Origin TL

Commodity prices

Non-tariff measures (NTMs)*

Exchange rate indicators

Service trade

Internal taxes (VAT, excise tax, ..)

Foreign Direct Investment**

Business directory**

Trade relate performance indicators

Business associations and trade support organisations

Trade Integration Analysis & Monitoring Module

Advance indicators and analytical tools to monitor tariff preference utilization, regional integration and impacts of new trade policy decisions





2019 tralac Annual Conference

Synergies with RECs

- COMESA, EAC and ECOWAS have platforms that periodically provide trade information on their Member States:
 - COMESA : <http://comstat.comesa.int/>; EAC: <http://tradehelpdesk.eac.int/>; <http://eac.opendataforafrica.org/?lang=fr> ; ECOWAS: <http://www.etls.ecowas.int/>; <http://ecotipa.ecowas.int/the-introduction/>; <http://ecowas.tradeportal.org/?l=fr#>.
- EAC and ECOWAS have Community Information Centres (CIC)
- Trade data and information on SADC and IGAD are available through reports:
 - SADC Statistical Year Book for 2015; IGAD 2016 State of the Region Report
- Tripartite Agreement: Non-Tariff Barriers Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination Mechanism - providing information on non-tariff measures:
 - <https://www.tradebarriers.org/>





Relationships with AU organs

- AUC Department of Economic Affairs (Division of Statistics) - to be merged with Department of Trade and Industry
 - Decision of AU Heads of State and Government (11th Extraordinary AU Summit, November 2018)
- AfCFTA Secretariat:
 - trade information generated under the AfCFTA Agreement
 - Non-Tariff Barriers Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination Mechanism - to disseminate information on Non-Tariff Measures (in collaboration with UNCTAD)
- AU Institute for Statistics, Tunisia:
 - implementation of the revised Strategy on the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA)
- Pan-African Training Centre on Statistics (Cote d'Ivoire)





Relationships with Other Institutions

- Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII) jointly implemented by AUC, AfDB and UNECA
- AFRISTAT (Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne)
- UNECA:
 - Observatory on Regional Integration in Africa (ORIA)
 - African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC)
 - AfCFTA Country Business Index
 - African Centre for Statistics
- African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank):
 - establishing trade portal





Ensuring Ownership/Sustainability

- Located under the DTI/ AUC:
 - host the ATO Dashboard
 - establishment of the ATO Unit in the DTI
- AUC- mobilise resources for:
 - cost of ATO staff
 - sensitisation, awareness raising, consensus building activities
- AUC – to chair the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board
- How to ensure sustainability?
 - capacity building programme (“training of trainers”)
 - strengthen capacity of RECs
 - economist/statistician within the RECs Secretariat





2019 tralac Annual Conference

Implementing Partners

- ITC - technical partner:
 - design and establishment of the ATO
- EU Commission – financial partner
 - committed Euro 4 million for the implementation of the ATO
- RECs will play key role:
 - collating data from member states
 - channelling data and information to the ATO





2019 tralac Annual Conference

Stakeholder Consultations

- AU-USAID BIAT Workshop on Trade Finance and Trade Information in Africa, 3-15 September 2017, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- Consultative Meeting with key partners and stakeholders, 6 July 2018, Addis Ababa
- Sensitisation of the AU DG Customs Subcommittee, Moroni, Comoros, September 2018
- Progress Report presented to the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Industry and Minerals, October 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Presentation to Senior Trade Officials Meeting, 10 December 2018, Cairo, Egypt
- Sensitisation during the inaugural Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF2018), 14 December 2018, Cairo, Egypt
- Consultative Meeting with key partners and stakeholders, 25 January 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Signing of the Joint Letter by AUC-RECs-EC-ITC for the Implementation of the ATO on 9 February 2019 on the margins of the 32nd Ordinary Session of AU Heads of State and Government Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





Next Steps

- Member States and RECs will designate a focal point to support the implementation
- The assessment of available trade data and information system
- Regional Workshops on Outcomes of Findings, and Prioritize MS and RECs Requirements
- Unveiling of the ATO Dashboard on the margins of the upcoming AU Summit in July 2019
 - At the launching of the AfCTA





Thank you!

MureverwiB@africa-union.org

