2022 tralac Alumni Conference
11-12 October 2022

Wilfried DEUDJUI MBOUWE
AFCFTA Implementation in Cameroon
Updates
Agenda

• Cameroon’s Government efforts in implementing the AfCFTA at 3 levels:
  – Strategic: Domesticating the AfCFTA agreement
  – Tactical: Preparing the ground to effectively commence trade under AfCFTA
  – Operational: How do we engage SMEs to effectively trade under AfCFTA?
At the Strategic level

• Signature on 21 March 2018 at Kigali, Rwanda
• Ratification:
  – The parliament authorized the president to ratified on 19 July 2019;
  – The president ratified on 31st October 2019
  – The ratification instrument was deposited on 1st December 2020
At the Strategic level

• Drafting a National Implementation Strategy:
  – Several and successive workshops to define and draft the national implementation strategy
  – Inclusive and participatory, under the leadership of the Ministry of Trade in partnership with UNECA (Sub Regional Office for Central Africa)
  – The strategy was adopted and endorsed by other strategic documents namely the national development strategy 2020-2030, national trade facilitation roadmap, industrialization master plan
At the Strategic level

• An interministerial committee was put in place to follow up the implementation strategy:
  • Under the leadership of the Ministry of Trade;
  • With Private sector as Vice President (GICAM)
  • Technical committees and sub committees
At the Tactical level

• Several actions were undertaken at the tactical level in conjunction with what was being done at the strategic level:
  • Raising Awareness by information sessions
  • Training seminars
  • Concerns public sector, private sector and civil society
At the Tactic level

- 16-17 April 2019: 1st National information and sensitization seminar jointly organized with UNECA;
- 12 November 2019: Consultation session with public and private sectors stakeholders to examine the draft implementation strategy and for participants to make inputs;
- 28-29 November 2019: Final validation session of the national implementation strategy
- 22 April 2020: Adoption of the national implementation strategy
At the Tactical level

• 29 March 2021: creation of the Interministerial Committee charged with the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area: Prime Ministerial Order No 039/PM of 29 March 2021

• 10 October 2021: the Ministerial Directive on the Application of Provisional Schedules of Tariffs Concessions was adopted
At the Tactical level

• 12 November 2021: First working session of the interministerial committee

• Operational phase was launched on 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2021 but even in February 2022, commercially meaningful trade had not commenced under AFCFTA
At the Tactical level

• In July 2022, AFCFTA initiative on guided trade was announced;
• Cameroon was selected among countries to participate in the initiative;
• On 8 September 2022: Cameroon National Shippers’ Council was designated to host the sub committee in charge of facilitating the implementation of the AFCFTA guided trade initiative in Cameroon;
At the Operational Level

• Trade under AFCFTA was theoretically launched on 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2021;
• Since that date, much has been done to effectively engage businesses to trade under AFCFTA;
• Mainly in the form sensitization and training by various agencies:
  – What it is about?
  – How do they benefit from it?
  – What are the opportunities?
  – How do they address the challenges we usually face in crossborder trade? (RoO, Trade Finance, Trade Facilitation)
At the Operational Level

- 29-30 June 2021, CNSC organized a webinar on the theme: Foreign trade procedures for SMEs under AFCFTA. Some key subjects were addressed:
  - Private sector's involvement in implementing AFCFTA (UNECA ATPC)
  - Market Penetration Strategies for SMEs under the AFCFTA (ITC)
  - Trade facilitation and cross-border trade under AFCFTA (ITC)
  - Updates on AFCFTA (AFCFTA Secretariat)
At the Operational Level

- TRALAC's contribution to the promotion of women and youth for sustainable intra-African trade (tralac)
- Cross-border trade financing for SMEs (AFDB)
- Tackling cross-border trade payments issues (African Guarantee Fund)
- Government supporting measures to SMEs to penetrate the AFCFTA Market (Ministry in charge of SMEs) with a focus on the SHE TRADES INITIATIVE
- Rules of origin and transit under AFCFTA (Customs)
- Diversification opportunities for SMEs for better competitiveness under AFCFTA (GIPEC, Frida BASOK)
At the Operational Level

• 12-14 April 2022, CNSC organized in partnership with AFREXIMBANK a training seminar on the theme: Optimizing AFCFTA’s opportunities for SMEs, focused on showcasing what tools and programs are available to traders namely:
  – MANS A: Africa’s Digital Due Diligence Repository
  – The Afreximbank Trade Facilitation Program (AFTRAF) to enhance the confidence of counterparties in the settlement of international trade transactions and improves correspondent banking relationships
  – The SME Development Programme designed to mitigate the gaps in Africa’s SME value chain, leveraging Afreximbank’s suite of (financial and non-financial) capabilities;
  – AFREXINSURE: insurance management services company which offers specialty insurance solutions for trade and trade related investments across Africa
At the Operational Level

- Fund for Export Development in Africa (FEDA): provide equity funding for the development of companies involved in intra-African trade and the development of exports of manufactured goods from Africa
- TRADAR: Trade intelligence solution to enhance transparency in African trade and provides a centralized digital source of regulations and legislative requirements for all trade and investment activities across Africa
- PAPSS: Pan-African Payment and Settlement System
At the Operational Level

- 28 July – 06 August 2022: training seminar during the Central Africa's Annual Cross border trade fair in Kye Osi:
  - Trade fair organized by the Central Africa’s Network of Active Women
  - Kye Osi : border with Gabon and Equatorial Guinea
At the Operational Level

- The GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE launched on 7 October 2022
- First certificates of origin under AFCFTA issued:
- Shipment From GHANA to CAMEROON, imports of Ceramic Tiles produced by KEDA CERAMIC (Chinese owned company based in Ghana) to Homepro Cameroon Ltd
- Shipment From CAMEROON to GHANA, exports of dried fruits by GIC AFATEX (a woman owned SME)
At the Operational Level

- KEDA CERAMIC
- certificate of origin
At the Operational Level

• How do we follow-up? How do we monitor and evaluate?
• Data, Data, Data, specially informal cross border trade which is sometimes very difficult to collect
• Reminder: ATO is one of the 5 operational instruments
• Creation of data collection where informal trade occurs:
  – Ekok: border with Nigeria
  – Demsa: border with Chad and Nigeria
  – Kye Ossi: border with Gabon and Equatorial Guinea
## At the Operational Level

### Trading Partner in Africa

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<tr>
<th>Total Gross Mass (Tons)</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022 Gross Mass (Tons)</th>
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Thank you !!!