

tralac Annual Conference

16-17 May 2024

Lusaka, Zambia

African Integration: new challenges of responding
to economic risk, uncertainty and geopolitics



Thursday, 16 May 2024

08:30 - 09:30 **Opening Session: Welcome and Keynote Address**

Opening Remarks: Dr George Lipimile, Chair tralac Board
Ambassador Dr Mohamed Kadah, Assistant Secretary General, COMESA
Ms Lilian Bwalya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Zambia

09:30 - 10:30 **Session 1: Appraising International Trade Governance Developments – implications for Africa**

- Geopolitics
- Multilateral trade governance
- African trade and integration

Dr Patrick Low, tralac Advisory Board
Professor Gerhard Erasmus, tralac Associate
Conversation with Trudi Hartzenberg

10:30 - 11:00 **Break**

11:00 - 12:00 **Session 2: Why are we discussing international trade dispute settlement in Africa?**
Case Law from Regional Economic Community Courts

Professor Dawid van Wyk, tralac Associate
Professor Gerhard Erasmus, tralac Associate

Chair: Dr Henry Mutai, Director Kenya School of Law

12:00 - 13:00 **Session 3: Update on the AfCFTA and the Guided Trade Initiative**

Professor Gerhard Erasmus, tralac Associate
Trudi Hartzenberg, tralac Executive Director
George Dinda, State Department of Trade, Kenya

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 - 15:30 **Session 4: Africa's industrialisation**

- Prospects for trade-led industrialisation
- The AfCFTA as a framework for Africa's industrialization – how can this work?
- Trade policy instruments, value chains and industrialization – case of Rules of Origin
- Gendered analysis of Africa's value chains
- Addressing the challenges MSMEs face

John Stuart, tralac Associate

Eckart Naumann, tralac Associate

Emily Pender, tralac Researcher

Chair: Ndiitah Nghipondoka-Robiati, Deputy-Executive Director, Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, Namibia

15:30 - 16:00 **Break**

16:00 - 17:00 **Session 5: The vocabulary of trade law and policy – are we all on the same page?**

tralac Team

19:00 **Gala Dinner**

Welcome: Dr George Lipimile

Guest Speaker: Mr Elvin Nasilele, Chief Executive Officer, Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Friday, 17 May 2024

08:30 - 09:00 **Recap of Day 1**

tralac Team

09:00 - 10:30 **Session 6: Digital trade and IP: Focus on the creative economy**

John Stuart, tralac Associate

Dr Talkmore Chidede, Digital Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat

Abrie du Plessis, tralac Associate

Maria Immanuel, tralac Alumna

Alastair Tempest, E-commerce Forum of Africa

Chair: Zodwa Mabuza, African Development Bank

10:30 - 11:00 **Break**

11:00 - 12:30 **Session 7: Private Sector Perspectives: Trading under the AfCFTA and REC trading regimes
Business and the AfCFTA**

- Trading under Regional Economic Community regimes and the AfCFTA
- Addressing practical trade challenges: what can be done to reduce the transaction costs of doing business, to improve border governance, to eliminate non-tariff barriers?

Chair: Mr Brian Lingela, Executive Director, Zambia Competition and Consumer Competition Commission

12:30 - 13:00 **Way Forward**

tralac Team

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch**

The 2024 tralac Annual Conference will be held in hybrid format.
In-person attendance is by invitation only. Follow us on social media #tralacConf2024

Visit the tralac Annual Conference webpage to download key resources and other background material prepared ahead of the Conference, including the latest edition of tralac's Guide to the AfCFTA (updated May 2024), publications, presentations and more: bit.ly/tralacConf2024

tralac gratefully acknowledges the support of its Development Partners

Visit the
Conference webpage

