

# tralac Newsletter



tralac Newsletter • Issue 3 • August 2018

## Women and trade

August is Women's Month in South Africa and so this edition of the tralac newsletter focuses on women in trade.

From hearing the hopes for the African Continental Free Trade Area from some of our women in trade governance champions, to addressing some of the most frequently asked questions about women in trade, we take a deep dive into why we should all care about women and trade.

We also feature a speech from the Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia on Women's Economic Empowerment, prepared for a Women in Trade session hosted by tralac at the SADC Industrialisation Week last month. We'd like to draw your attention to one part of that speech in particular ([click to download](#)):

*The key word here is inclusive – we must not allow the gains of trade to mean that some are left behind. Thus, we need trade to grow the economic pie to be equitably shared by all. Trade creates opportunity, but it is up to us to direct that opportunity, and to enable our citizens to take advantage of these opportunities. In short, our policy choices will influence the distribution of the opportunities to trade, and benefits of trade.*

This is an absolutely critical point. To truly be inclusive, we must recognise that women are affected differently by trade policy choices than men. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is part of a broad suite of development and structural transformation objectives that make up Agenda 2063. Agenda 2063 includes ambitious targets for gender equality, and also incorporates the sustainable development goals. The AfCFTA specifically recognises the importance of gender equality for the development of international trade and cooperation. As the AfCFTA takes shape, we must firstly understand the different effects of our policies and then design it in a way that is positive and empowering for women on the continent.

tralac will be launching a Women in Trade Governance network very soon; we will keep you posted.

The **tralac** team



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## Women champions of the AfCFTA

We asked some of Africa's leading women in trade about their hopes for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Here is what they said.



# tralacBlog

Perspectives on Africa's trade and integration



**tralacBlog** is a forum to share and engage with the views of tralac researchers and Associates, as well as guest contributors, on pressing regional integration and trade policy issues affecting African countries in order to encourage relevant, topic-related discussion and debate.

[Read more](#)



### Trade Governance Support to Empower Women Entrepreneurs

*Ndiitah Nghipondoka-Robiati - 31 Aug 2018*

Women own up to 40% of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) globally, but only own one in five exporting firms. In our region, most of the SMEs are in the informal space and data is not readily available. Therefore, the policy is not informed by empirical evidence and hence global governance structures are deficient due to this gender bias.



### Women, trade and financial inclusion in SADC

*Ashly Hope - 30 Aug 2018*

Trade is an important component of the economy, and without financial services, participating and benefiting from trade can be challenging. As such, narrowing the financial inclusion gap can contribute to narrowing the gap in women's participation in trade, and can also help improve trade outcomes for our economies.



## Women driving the Cosmetics Sector in Namibia

Maria Immanuel - 31 Aug 2018

The sustainable growth of the cosmetics industry hinges on the involvement of the communities harvesting the products. It is thus important that the mostly women producers and owners of manufacturing companies are actively involved in designing the value chain and that deliberate measures to support their efforts are implemented.



## Promoting Women's Participation in the AfCFTA

Treasure Maphanga - 29 Aug 2018

A plethora of Non-Tariff Barriers has affected the smooth participation of women in trade, and the potential for inclusive growth. As we progress with the implementation of the AfCFTA agreement, we must continue to advocate for the equal representation of women in all aspects, including the technical committees that will be responsible for monitoring progress.

## Questions & Answers (FAQs)



### Women and trade

**Q: Why do gender issues matter in trade relations/ agreements?**

**A:** As an important component of economic life, trade both contributes to, and is impacted by inequality. Trade affects women differently than men. Trade also affects different women in different ways. This means that we must be aware of the differences.

At worst, trade policy can increase or perpetuate inequalities; leaving women even worse off. But it is more often the case that trade policies and changes maintain the status quo in terms of inequality. This still leaves women worse off as men can access and take advantage of the benefits of trade changes, while women are less able to. At best, trade provides opportunities for women, and contributes to structural change to promote equality.

**Q: How do trade policies affect women differently?**

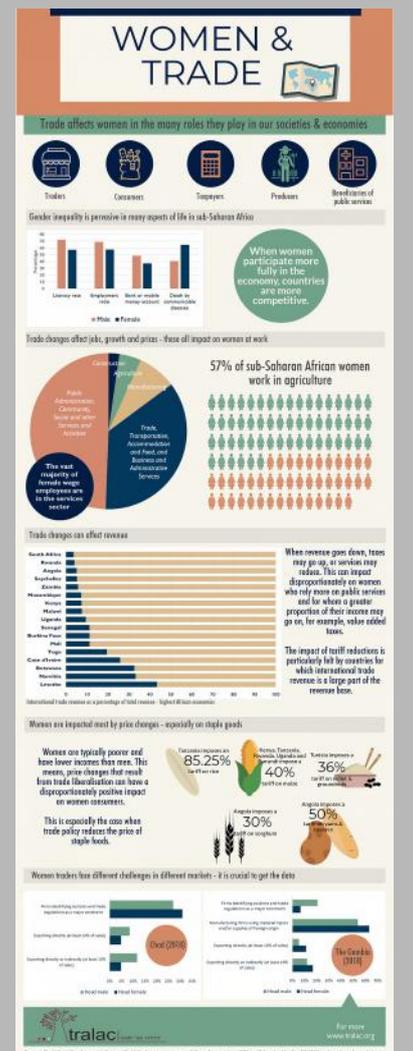
**A:** When considering making gender sensitive trade policy (including trade agreements) it is essential that we take into account the many roles women play in the economy. It is important to consider how women and men participate in the economy in their capacity as employees, producers, consumers, unpaid workers, traders and as tax payers. It is important to understand how trade changes affect women in each of these roles. Trade policy can play an important role in narrowing the gender gap. Or, it can contribute to widening the gap.

*Download the full Q&A to find out more.*

**Download the Q&A**

## Women and trade: Infographic

Click to view and visit our **Infographics** webpage to view our growing collection of infographics.



## tralac Short Course: Trade Law and Policy for Africa's Development



From 20-24 August, tralac welcomed participants from across the continent to its inaugural short course: Trade Law and Policy for Africa's Development. The course, conducted both online and in-person, started with a 5-day face-to-face module in Cape Town where participants learned both from tralac and from their peers. Participants were given a good grounding in the foundations of trade law, trade economics and the African trade landscape and debated the most pressing issues in trade law and policy. After a month of online learning, participants will return to Cape Town on 17 September for the second of three face-to-face modules.

[Find out more](#)

## Publications and Analysis

### The Limits of Depreciation as a Driver for Export Growth in South Africa: A Sectoral Analysis

Working Paper by John Stuart

Depreciation has for many years been used as an explicit component of industrial policy in South Africa. This paper uses graphic and quantitative techniques to understand the relationship between disaggregated sectoral exports and the sector-weighted real exchange rate for the period from 2005-2017.



### Implementing the AfCFTA: Obligations, Qualifications and Exceptions

Working Paper by Gerhard Erasmus

When and how does implementation of the AfCFTA begin? What must be implemented? Can technical hitches or delays be prevented? This paper discusses these questions in the context of the AfCFTA's objectives and the nature of the obligations formally agreed upon, as well as specific tasks of individual State Parties under the different Protocols.



### Trade Data Analysis

tralac has prepared several Trade Data Updates to provide an overview of the intra-African trading relationships of individual African countries; the top import and export products traded; and applicable tariffs. Each country update is accompanied by a visual representation of key data and trends in an infographic.

Recent updates include **Morocco, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, Eswatini, Mauritius** and **Senegal**.





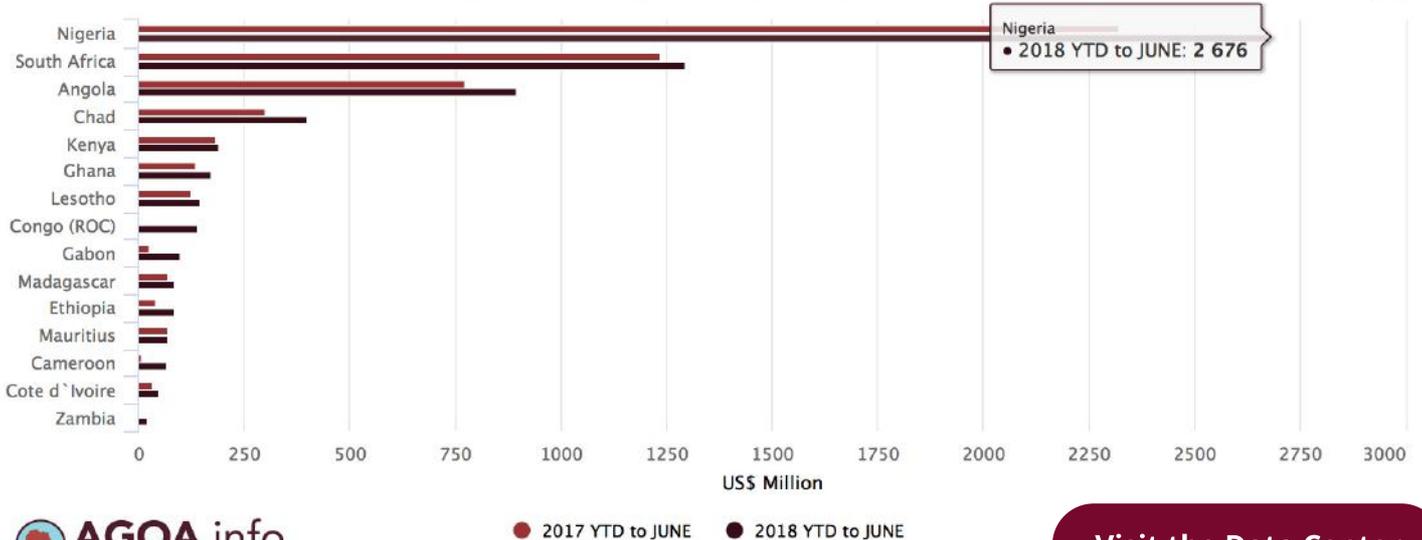
# AGOA.info

African Growth and Opportunity Act

## AGOA trade to June up on 2017

Combined exports to the US were up by 13% compared to the same period in 2017, from **\$11.53b to \$13.01b**. Trade under AGOA/GSP increased from \$5.4b to \$6.42b over the same period, an increase of 19% year-on-year. Among the leading exporters, **South Africa** and **Chad** showed significant increases while **Nigeria** and **Angola** also recorded double-digit increases due to higher oil revenues.

Leading AGOA Exporters (year to date 2017/18)



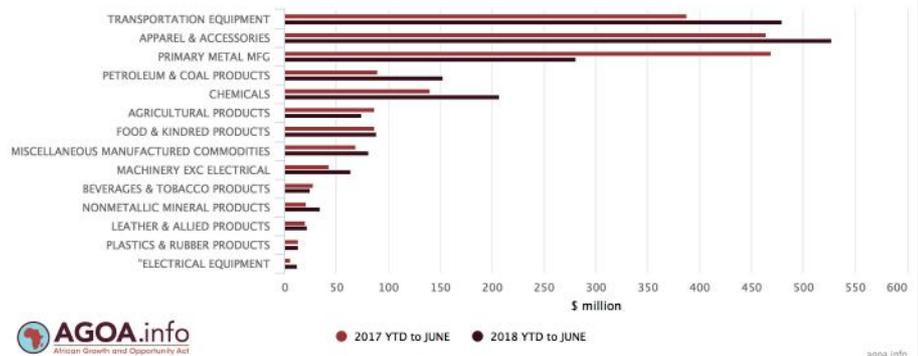
[Visit the Data Center](#)

### Key trade stats for AGOA beneficiaries to end June 2018

**Aggregate exports to US: Year to Date to May 2018: \$ 13.01 billion (up 13% year-on-year)**

**Share of AGOA exports: Year to Date to May 2018: \$ 6.42 billion (up 19% year-on-year)**

Leading non-oil sector exports under AGOA (incl YTD 2017/2018)



agoa.info

AGOA Forum 2018  
[www.AGOA.info/forum](http://www.AGOA.info/forum)

### AGOA Forum 2018

Early in July, the annual US-Africa AGOA Forum took place in Washington, D.C. Both the forum agendas, as well as the forum outcomes and recommendations, can be downloaded from AGOA.info at the following [link](#).

## Latest AGOA news updates

Following on from the recent completion of a new USAID Trade Hub supported **Kenya National AGOA Strategy**, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta paid US President Donald Trump a working visit. One of the outcomes of the visit has been the establishment of a "Trade and Investment Working Group", whereby the two countries would **"work together to explore a mutually beneficial trade and investment framework to guide the relationship move forward, as well as maximize the remaining years of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)."**

Meanwhile, recently introduced US tariffs on steel and aluminium, and possible further tariffs on automotive

imports, are threatening to significantly undermine South Africa's preferential access to the US market. These trade barriers appear to form the basis for **South African** chicken producers **considering retaliatory action** on South Africa's dispensation relating to preferential chicken imports from the United States.

### 📰 Latest #AGOA News



Kenyan government presents USAID Hub-supported AGOA Strategy to USTR



Warmer Kenya-US relations good for trade and investment



SA farmers play 'chicken' with US tariffs



Kenya, US establish trade investment working group



With mitumba ban in tatters, what next for trade between Kenya, US?



US poultry industry to urge retaliation if South Africa ends quota



Kenya: Foreign Affairs Secretary meets ambassadors in the US ahead of Kenyatta-Trump meeting



East Africa debate: Suspension of Rwanda's AGOA benefits – What does it mean? [Video]

## AGOA and related resources



**Chambers of Commerce**  
Chambers of Commerce located in Africa



**Development & Finance**  
Agencies involved in trade related development and finance



**Government Depts (USA)**  
Links to US government websites and resources



**Regulatory Authorities (USA)**  
Authorities tasked with various trade-related regulatory responsibilities



**Sector Associations and Export Promotion (Africa)**  
Associations representing the interests of specific sectors



**Trade Resources**  
Resources relating to the process of exporting and importing



**US Embassies in Africa**  
Links to US embassies in African countries



**Video Resources**  
Video resources related to AGOA