

Part III of the AfCFTA Agreement provides for an “institutional framework for the implementation, administration, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation of the AfCFTA.” This institutional framework consists of the Assembly, the Council of Ministers responsible for Trade, the Committee of Senior Trade Officials, and the AfCFTA Secretariat. There are other institutions of the AfCFTA including the Dispute Settlement Body, Dispute Settlement Panels, Appellate Body and several technical committees and sub-committees established by the Council of Ministers.

## Assembly

The highest decision-making body of the African Union. Apex body of the AfCFTA

### Members



Heads of State and Government of the African Union, not just those of AfCFTA State Parties

### Functions

provides oversight and guidance on the AfCFTA

### Powers

has exclusive authority to adopt interpretations of the AfCFTA Agreement on the recommendation of Council of Ministers.

## Council of Ministers

### Members



Ministers responsible for Trade or such other ministers, authorities, or officials duly designated by the State Parties.

### Functions

- must ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the AfCFTA Agreement
- reports to the Assembly through the Executive Council of the AU
- makes recommendations to the Assembly for the adoption of an authoritative interpretation of the Agreement.
- Establishes and delegates responsibilities to ad hoc or standing committees, working groups or expert groups
- decisions taken by the Council of Ministers, while acting within its mandate, shall be binding on State Parties. Decisions that have legal, structural or financial implications shall be binding on State Parties upon their adoption by the Assembly.

## Committee of Senior Trade Officials

### Members



Permanent Secretaries or other officials designated by State Parties

### Functions

- responsible for the development of programmes and action plans for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.
- oversees the implementation of the provisions of the AfCFTA Agreement
- implement decisions of the Council of Ministers as may be directed
- may request a Technical Committee or Secretariat to undertake specific assignments
- reports to the Council of Ministers

## AfCFTA Secretariat

### Functions

- the administrative organ to coordinate the implementation of the AfCFTA
- coordinate and provide technical assistance and capacity building in trade and trade related issues for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement
- functionally autonomous institutional body within the AU system with an independent legal personality
- autonomous of the AU Commission
- based in Accra, Ghana

## Dispute Settlement Body

### Functions

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- Members**  
Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties
- Coordinate the implementation or operation of the AfCFTA dispute settlement mechanism.
  - have the authority to: establish Dispute Settlement Panels and an Appellate Body; adopt Panel and Appellate Body reports; maintain surveillance of implementation of rulings and recommendations of the Panels and Appellate Body

### Panels

Assists the DSB in discharging its responsibilities under the Agreement.  
Consult widely and regularly with the Parties to a dispute and give them an adequate opportunity to develop a mutually satisfactory solution.

### Appellate Body

Composed of 7 members  
Hears appeals from panel cases.  
Rulings of Appellate Body are binding on the Parties to the dispute.



The Council of Ministers has established various technical committees to assist with the implementation of the specific Protocols to the AfCFTA Agreement. These technical committees include Committees and their Sub-Committees.

## Committees

### Committee for Trade in Goods

#### Members




Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties

#### Functions

Oversees the implementation of the Protocol on Trade in Goods  
May establish such subsidiary bodies as it considers appropriate for the effective discharge of its functions  
Reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials

### Committee for Trade in Services

#### Members



Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties

#### Functions

Oversees the implementation of the Protocol on Trade in Services  
May establish such subsidiary bodies as it considers appropriate for the effective discharge of its functions  
Reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials

### Committee on Investment

#### Members



Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties

#### Functions

Oversees the implementation of the Protocol on Investment  
Reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials

### Committee on Competition Policy

#### Members



Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties

#### Functions

Oversees the implementation of the Protocol on Competition Policy  
Reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials

### Committee on Intellectual Property Rights

#### Members



Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties

#### Functions

Oversees the implementation of the Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights  
Reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials

### Committee on Women and Youth in Trade

#### Members



Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties

#### Functions

Oversees the implementation of the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade  
Reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials

### Committee on Digital Trade

#### Members



Comprises designated officials or representatives from State Parties

#### Functions

Oversees the implementation of the Protocol on Digital Trade  
Reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials

## Sub-Committees

### Trade in Goods

#### Sub-Committee on RoO

- Responsible for the operationalisation of Annex 2 on Rules of Origin

#### Sub-Committee on SPS

- Responsible for the operationalisation of Annex 7 on SPS

#### Sub-Committee on NTBs

- Responsible for the operationalisation of Annex 5 on NTBs

#### Sub-Committee on TBTs

- Responsible for the operationalisation of Annex 6 on TBTs

#### Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation, Customs Cooperation and Transit

Responsible for the operationalisation of Annex 3 on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance, Annex 4 on Trade Facilitation, and Annex 8 on Transit.

#### Sub-Committee on Trade Remedies

Responsible for implementation of Annex 9 on Trade Remedies

### Trade in Services

#### Sub-Committee on Specific Commitments

- Responsible for the operationalisation of the Annex on Schedules of Specific Commitments

#### Sub-Committee on Regulatory Cooperation Frameworks

- Responsible for the operationalisation of the Annex on Regulatory Cooperation Frameworks.

#### Sub-Committee on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

- Responsible for the operationalisation of the Annex on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

#### Sub-Committee on Trade in Services- Related Issues

- Responsible for the operationalisation of Trade in Services- Related Issues

#### Sub-Committee on AfCFTA Trade in Services Rules

- Responsible for the operationalisation of AfCFTA Trade in Services Rules

## Regional Economic Communities and the AfCFTA

#### Members



Comprise designated officials or representatives from ECCAS, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, COMESA, AMU, CEN-SAD and IGAD

#### Functions

Represented in the Committee of Senior Trade Officials, in an advisory capacity.  
Participate in the Meetings of the Technical Committees, in advisory capacity.