



Regional Policy Forum (Hybrid)

Value Chain Development, Trade, and Economic Transformation

‘Enhancing Africa’s Competitiveness and Participation in Global Value Chain’

Programme

12 March 2025

08:00 - 17:00 Hrs GMT+3

Venue: Radisson Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Register Here: [Regional Policy Forum on Value Chain Development, Trade and Economic Transformation in Africa](#)



Programme

08.00 A.M -17.00 P.M (GMT+3)

08.00 -09.00	Arrivals and Registration for In-person Participants, Addis Ababa Registration of the Online Participants
Master of Ceremony: Dr. Scholastica Odhiambo, Manager, Research, AERC	
Session I: Opening of the Policy Forum	
Welcome Remarks 09.00 - 09.15	Dr. Abbi Kedir, Director of Research, AERC
Session II: Synthesis Paper Presentation	
Chair of Session	Prof. Alemayehu Geda, Professor of Macroeconomics & International Economics, Department of Economics, Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia.
Presentation 1 09.15 – 09:35	<i>Will the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Help Green African Continental Trade?</i> Prof. Oliver Morrissey, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, University of Nottingham
Floor Discussion 09:35 – 09:45	
Presentation 2 09:45- 10:05	<i>Enhancing African Competitiveness through Firms Participations in Global Value Chain</i> Prof. Tabitha Kiriti-Ng'ang'a, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and Development Studies, University of Nairobi
Floor Discussion 10:05 -10:15	
10:15 - 10:35	Health Break
Session III: High-Level Value Chain and Trade Practitioners Panel (10:35 -11:35)	
Moderator	Dr. Scholastica Odhiambo, Manager of Research, AERC
Distinguished Panelists	Mr. Ato Ewnetu Taye, Country Director, Trademark Africa, Ethiopia Ms. Sharon Modiba, Chief Economist, The International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC), South Africa Mr. William Komu, Director of Economic Planning, International Frameworks Coordination Division (IFCD), State Department of Economic Planning, The National Treasury and Economic Planning, Kenya Dr. Birasa Nyamulinda, Research Director, Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), Rwanda



Session IV: Policy Paper Presentations		
	Group I	Group II
Chair of the Session:	Dr. Josaphat Kweka , Lead Consultant and CEO, Talanta International	Dr. Mengesha Yayo , Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
Presentations 11:35– 11:55	<i>Job Impacts of Global Value Chains: Firm-Level Evidence from Cameroon</i>	<i>GVCs in Zimbabwe's Critical Sectors in the Face of Environmental Pollution and Climate Change: The Case of Agriculture and Mining Sectors</i>
Floor Discussion 11:55 -12:05	Prof. Njikam Ousmanou , Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics & Management Science, University of Yaoundé II	Ms. Benhilda Dube , Chair, Department of Economics, Binudra University of Science Education, Zimbabwe, Dr. Teresa Nyika & Dr. Michael Takudzwa Pasara , Department of Economics, University of Zimbabwe
Presentations 12:05 – 12:25	<i>Assessing the Role of Innovation in Cameroonian Firms' Participation in Global Value Chains</i>	<i>Firm Volatility in an Era of Global Value Chain: The Role of Product Quality</i>
Floor Discussion 12:25 -12:35	Dr. Yselle Flora Malah-Kuete , Lecturer, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Yaoundé II	Prof. Gideon Ndubuisi , Assistant Professor of Economics, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) & Prof. Solomon Owusu , Assistant Professor of Global Economic Policy, Federick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
Presentations 12:35– 12:55	<i>Trade in Business Services' Booms: The Case of Ghana</i>	
Floor Discussion 12:55 – 13:05	Prof. Andrea Ariu , Associate Professor, DEMM, University of Milan	
13:05 -14:05	Lunch Break	
Session V: High-Level Value Chain and Trade Policy Panel I (14:05– 15:05)		
Chair of Session		
Moderator	Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa , Senior Research Fellow and Head of Trade and Regional Integration Department, Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda	
Distinguished Panelists	Ms. Diane Sayinzonga , Chief, UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa, Ethiopia Mr. William Agyei-Manu , Vice President, All Africa Association of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (AAASME), West Africa Region & Chairman, Agribusiness Sector, The Association of Ghana Industries -AGI, Ghana	



	Mr. Okesade Olajide Mamud , Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Investment, Trade, Cooperative and Industry, Oyo State, Nigeria Hon. Dr. Abdullah Makame , East African Legislative Assembly. Arusha, Tanzania
15:05 -15:15	Q&A
Wrap-Up 15:15 -15:25	Abbi Kedir , Director of Research, AERC
15:25 -17:00	Reception and Cocktail