

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### SACU WORKSHOP ON E-COMMERCE

13-14 SEPTEMBER 2023

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

<b>12<sup>th</sup> September Arrival of Workshop Participants</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Day 1: 13 September 2023</b>
08:30 - 09:00	Arrival and Registration at the Workshop
<b>Opening Session</b>	
<b>Moderator: Chairperson of SACU (Lesotho)</b>	
09:00 - 09:10	Welcome Remarks by Chairperson of SACU (Lesotho)
09:10 - 09:20	Remarks by UNCTAD
09:20 - 09:30	Remarks by Commonwealth Secretariat
<b>Session 1: Understanding the context for E-commerce development</b>	
09:30 - 10:00	<p><b>Current Trends in E-Commerce and the Digital Economy and Related Policy and Regulatory Responses</b></p> <p>This session will present current trends in E-commerce and the digital economy and discuss the main opportunities and challenges facing developing countries. It will review the main policy areas that are key determinants of E-commerce diffusion. It will also discuss the trends specific to African economies, recent developments aimed at achieving a single African market and under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and insights of research recently conducted with private sector companies.</p> <p>Speakers (10 minutes for each speaker):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ms. Martine Julsaint Kidane, Economic Affairs Officer, Digital Economy Capacity-Building Section, E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Dr. Ify Ogo, Regional Coordination Specialist (AfCFTA), UNDP (TBC)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WTO Representative</p>
10:00 - 10:30	Questions and Answers
10:30 - 10:45	Tea Break
<b>Session 2: National experiences of SACU Member States in developing E-commerce</b>	

<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Ms Lerato Ntlopo, SACU Secretariat</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:40</b>	<p>This session will focus on sharing national experiences on E-commerce development. Member States are encouraged to share information on existing national policy interventions, regulations, initiatives, or trade-related technical assistance projects that are focused on E-commerce and to highlight lessons learnt and good practices.</p> <p>Presenters (10 minutes per presenter):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from Botswana</li> <li>Representative from Eswatini</li> <li>Representative from Lesotho</li> <li>Representative from Namibia</li> <li>Representative from South Africa</li> </ul>
<b>11:40 - 12:00</b>	Questions and Answers
<b>Session 3: Experience sharing on E-commerce by Regional Communities</b>	
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Ms Opeyemi Abebe, Adviser &amp; Head, Trade Competitiveness Section, Trade, Oceans and Natural Resources Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat.</b>
<b>12:00 - 13:00</b>	<p>This session will be a panel discussion on regional and continental experiences. To learn from other regional E-commerce frameworks, representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Developing Community (SADC), and the East African Community (EAC) will share their experience developing E-commerce in their regions. The African Union Commissions (AUC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will also share their experiences. Members of the panel will discuss the impact of their regional E-commerce frameworks on their respective blocs, both as a facilitatory tool for the adoption and promotion of national and cross-border E-commerce and as a driver for trade and development. The panellists will address expected outcomes as well as the impact the elaboration process had on relevant institutions involved in the process and direct beneficiaries of implemented programmes.</p> <p>Speakers (10 minutes per presenter):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from AU Commission</li> <li>Representative from AfCFTA Secretariat</li> <li>Representative from EAC Secretariat</li> <li>Representative from ECOWAS Commission</li> <li>Representative from SADC Secretariat</li> <li>Representative from COMESA Secretariat</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>14:00 - 14:20</b>	Questions and Answers
<b>Session 4: Experience sharing by development partners on E-Commerce</b>	
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>UNCTAD Representative</b>
<b>14:20 - 15:30</b>	<p>This session will be a panel discussion on experience sharing by development partners on E-commerce. The panellists will also share with participants how their institutions have provided technical assistance on E-Commerce and how SACU Member States can benefit.</p> <p>Panel Discussants (10 minutes per presenter):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from the EU</li> <li>Representative from the GIZ</li> <li>Representative from the Netherland</li> <li>Representative from the USAID</li> <li>Representative from the Switzerland</li> <li>Representative from UNECA</li> </ul>
<b>15:30 - 16:00</b>	Questions and Answers

<b>16:00 - 16:20</b>	Tea Break
<b>Session 5: Defining a Regional E-commerce Framework for SACU</b>	
<b>Moderator: SACU Representative (Member State)</b>	
<b>16:20 - 16:50</b>	This session will focus on the work by UNCTAD and the Commonwealth on E-commerce, particularly the support in conducting eTrade readiness assessments using the eTrade for all 7 pillars diagnostic approach; elaborating evidence-based E-commerce strategy; and accessing e-commerce-related implementation support will be described and the experiences of other beneficiary countries and regions showcased.  Speaker: (15 minutes per presenter) Ms. Martine Julsaint Kidane, UNCTAD Ms Opeyemi Abebe, Commonwealth Secretariat
<b>16:50 - 17:15</b>	Questions and Answers
<b>END OF DAY 1</b>	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Day 2: 14 September 2023</b>
<b>Facilitators:</b>	Ms. Martine Julsaint Kidane, UNCTAD Ms Opeyemi Abebe, Commonwealth Secretariat
<b>09:00 - 10:30</b>	Group exercise sessions  The Sessions will be on the various eTrade readiness pillars and to identify the SWOT for each of the SACU Member State on E-Commerce capabilities.
<b>10:30 - 10:45</b>	Tea Break
<b>10:45 - 11:30</b>	Feedback from the Groups and discussions
<b>Session 6: Mapping the way forward</b>	
<b>Moderator:</b>	Ms. Cécile Bararye-El Shami, Chief, Digital Economy Capacity-Building Section, E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD
<b>11:30 - 13:00</b>	This session will aim to reach an agreement on the best approach and concrete steps to be taken by SACU on E-commerce. It will be an open discussion where SACU Member States will be encouraged to share their views on the way forward and possible challenges for developing an E-commerce framework for the region.
<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	Lunch Break
<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>	Consideration of the Summary and Recommendations from the Workshop  Mr Benjamin Katjipuka, SACU Secretariat
<b>15:00 - 16:00</b>	Closing session Ms. Cécile Bararye-El Shami, Chief, Digital Economy Capacity-Building Section, E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD  Commonwealth Secretariat  SACU Chairperson (Lesotho)
<b>END OF THE WORKSHOP</b>	