



Office for North Africa
Mission Report

By:	Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi
Objective:	To participate in the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of African Trade Policy Centre, 27-28 February 2019, Libreville, Gabon, and the Expert Group Meeting to Review the Guidelines for national AfCFTA Implementation Strategies, 1 March 2019, Libreville, Gabon
Dates:	27 February- 1 March 2019
Venue:	Libreville, Gabon
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Recommendations of the 3rd ATPC Steering Committee Meeting which took place from 14 to 15 February 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco, were presented by Mr. David Luke, ATPC coordinator, for example ATPC adopted a story telling method of demonstrating the impact of its work. ATPC took the following steps to strengthen communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Issue press releases before, during and after events including posts on Twitter and Facebook <input type="checkbox"/> Post events with all relevant documents on ATPC website and on the knowledge platform <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare flyers, posters and media kits for special events with ATPC message • ATPC continued to work with ECA SROs. Currently SROs are heavily involved in the implementation of the EU project on the ratification and implementation of the AfCFTA. • ATPC also partnering with Afreximbank on a project on ICBT and was a member of Intra African Trade Fair Advisory Board. • Overview of ATPC's 2018 Work Program and Operations was presented by Mr. David Luke, ATPC coordinator, in fact this was the first Annual Project Operations Report under the ATPC III programme implemented with ECA extra-budgetary support principally through Grant Arrangement No 7061912 titled "Support to the Boosting of Intra-African Trade" signed on 15th December 2015 between the Government of Canada and ECA. • ECA reforms broadened the mandate of ATPC to include industrialization and economic diversification, in addition to trade. This reflects a recognition of the crucial linkages between trade, production and industrialization. • ATPC prepared a toolkit on the African Continental Free Trade Area modalities on trade in goods. The toolkit provided guidance for African policymakers and negotiators on options for resolving outstanding issues that remain to be addressed under the AfCFTA negotiations in relation to the modalities on goods, with a view to bringing negotiations to a successful conclusion. The Toolkit was widely disseminated to all member States and Regional Economic Communities, including through capacity building events. The recommendations proposed in the toolkit were adopted by member States in the finalization of the modalities for the liberalization of trade in goods, highlighting the crucial importance of ATPC knowledge products. On request, ATPC also produced short briefing notes on country-

	<p>specific impacts from "An empirical assessment of the modalities on goods of the AfCFTA" for Algeria/Libya, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATPC team (Simon Mevel, Jamie Mcleod, Emmanuel Mbarga, Heini Suominen, Batanai Chikwene, Ify Ogo) presented the 2018 Results by Intermediate Outcome and Outputs, for example, in 2018, ATPC provided technical support to member states in negotiating the AfCFTA and continued to prepare the strategy for tracking progress on boosting intra-African trade. The Centre conducted training in trade and gender and provided capacity development support to Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The centre continued to support the African Corridor Management Alliance (ACMA) and the African Alliance for e-commerce (AAEC). Feedback from beneficiaries indicates that knowledge products produced by ATPC contributed to increased knowledge and skills on BIAT and AfCFTA issues. <p>Also, in the margins of the inaugural Intra-African Trade Fair, ATPC organized events that featured gender issues prominently. The sessions are as follows: Trade Finance for Female Entrepreneurs; Informal Cross Border Trade: What Do We Know? Empowering African women and youth in the new AfCFTA era; and a Continental Workshop on Trade and Gender.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the draft guidelines for the national AfCFTA implementation strategies focused on the fact that harnessing the benefits of the AfCFTA starts with its domestication, ratification by member States being a prerequisite. The benefits of the Agreement, once ratified, will not come overnight. Countries will need to identify where their comparative and competitive advantages lie for diversification and value chain development or integration under the Agreement. This requires the design and implementation of new policy interventions or retuning of existing policy frameworks, with a view to make the most of the AfCFTA. They also need to identify means to deal with cost adjustments, including any adverse fiscal impact resulting from the Agreement's implementation. These are some of the components to consider in the AfCFTA tailored strategies at national levels while ensuring coherence with regional, continental and global frameworks.
Some people met	ATPC colleagues, Commissioner Albert Muchanga- AUC, Aliou Ninang, African Centre for Trade and Integration, Zahr Eddine Belbachir- UMA, Desire Loumou- ECCAS, Marie Angelique Umulisa- EAC, Prof. Wale Ogunkola- University of Ibadan, Million Habte- AUC
Annex:	Agendas, reports, presentations