



Office for North Africa  
Mission Report

<b>By:</b>	Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi
<b>Objective:</b>	To participate in the EGM on the Review of Methodology for AfCFTA Country Business Index (ACBI).
<b>Dates:</b>	2-3 September 2019
<b>Venue:</b>	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
<b>Report:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- There is a need to develop tools and instruments that help countries capture the effectiveness of measures undertaken to implement the AfCFTA with a view to increase business competitiveness.</li><li>- ECA has proposed the establishment of an AfCFTA Country Business Index (ACBI) that will be used at country level to assess and monitor constraints faced by the private sector as they trade in Africa. The rationale is that private businesses are the target beneficiaries of the AfCFTA – it is them that trade across borders to whom the AfCFTA should serve.</li><li>- By putting the private sector at the heart of monitoring the effectiveness of the AfCFTA, the ACBI will encourage countries to effectively implement the AfCFTA in the interest of those for whom it is designed.</li><li>- Having such an index that assesses and monitors trade enabling factors (including tariffs and non-tariffs measures) and induced costs faced by private sector operators will help to deepen the implementation of the AfCFTA.</li><li>- The proposed ACBI intends to be a robust and unique tool for measuring and monitoring businesses' experience with AfCFTA implementation at the country level, including identifying shortcomings and ways in which implementation can be improved.</li><li>- The Index will allow for cross-country comparisons to reward countries that are doing well in effectively implementing the AfCFTA, and through doing so encourage countries to develop a more conducive enabling business environment throughout the continent. It will ultimately be a tool to facilitate decisions making that will in turn sustain business and trade within and beyond Africa. It will further contribute to better understanding the challenges that the private sector operators and traders of various sizes face when trading across borders in Africa; especially by filling the gap in terms of information available to policymakers and businesses in Africa, considering the poor coverage of existing data.</li><li>- The Index will also provide the private sector with a tool for articulating their challenges to policy-makers.</li><li>- The specific objectives of the meeting are to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• critically review the proposed dimensions and indicators of the ACBI and suggest ways these can be improved;</li><li>• ensure the proposed instruments for collecting data from businesses that produce/trade across borders in Africa through surveys are adequate and fit the intended purpose of the Index.</li></ul></li><li>- Four dimensions were initially identified by ECA for the ACBI namely: AfCFTA implementation, ease of trading in Africa, trade for development and AfCFTA impact.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In pursuing a thematic approach, multiple sources of information would be required to assess different aspects of the AfCFTA. Specifically, for each dimension, it would be necessary to measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The actual implementation of the AfCFTA through primary information collected from the AU, RECs and member states themselves.</li> <li>• Perceptions on the impact and effectiveness of the AfCFTA (and related initiatives) drawn from the survey of businesses.</li> <li>• Outcomes based on aggregate, secondary indicators that provide quantitative information on intra-African trade and investment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- It is proposed that each dimension of the ACBI consists of separate data and indicators that assess three distinct areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which AU Member State signatories of the AfCFTA are implementing the AfCFTA's provisions and processes. This would require that such implementation information is collected directly through engagement with Member States, or through the AfCFTA Secretariat.</li> <li>• Perceptions on the impact of the AfCFTA and related programmes will be collected through the private sector focused perceptions survey.</li> <li>• The outcomes and effect of the AfCFTA could be measured through secondary indicators and / or information collected from other indices and surveys.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Collecting information in each of these three areas would allow for a holistic assessment <i>within</i> each dimension, as well as an aggregate assessment <i>across</i> each dimension.</li> </ul>
<b>Some people met:</b>	David Luke, Joseph Atta- Mensah, Prudence Sebahzi (AUC), Jean Bertrand (AUC), Edem Adzogenu (Afrochampions) Jorg Konig, Kebour Ghena (PACCI), Nabila Frejji (Moroccan Women Business Federation), Bashir Zahreddin (AMU), Kuena Molapo (UNCTAD), Nancy Gitonga (East African Business Council), Wafa Aidi, Komi Tsowou, Jamie Mclaeod
<b>Annex:</b>	Concept note- Draft Agenda and programme, ACBI methodology- ACBI perceptions questionnaire.