

AfCFTA Policy Dialogue with Women's Business Associations

Key Outcomes and Recommendations

November 2019

#	Recommendations	AU Policy Reforms / Actions	Actions for RECs	National Policy Reforms	Other actions by Govt	Actions by WBAs	Actions by others
Trade Facilitation and Market Access							
1	Stronger representation of Women's Business Associations on AfCFTA National Committees and Trade Facilitation Committees as well as participation in consultations in the context of the AfCFTA national process			X		X	
2	Training and capacity building for women on Trade Facilitation under the AfCFTA				X	X	X
3	Training and capacity building for customs officials on Trade Facilitation under the AfCFTA	X	X		X	X	
4	Apply a Continental Simplified Trade Regime under the AfCFTA	X					
5	Targeted sensitization and communication campaigns on leveraging opportunities under the AfCFTA that target female traders in the formal and informal economy.		X		X	X	X
6	Support women to identify and take advantage of niche markets under the AfCFTA.	X				X	X
7	Implement instruments to reduce time and costs involved in release and clearance of goods at borders				X		
8	Implement measures to make it safer for women to trade across borders		X		X		X
9	Encourage customs administrations to assess their policies through the Gender Equality Organizational Assessment Tool			X			

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Standards							
1	Facilitate women's participation in national and regional committees for implementation and monitoring of standards		X	X		X	X
2	Establish quality infrastructure at national, regional and continental level to facilitate product upgrading		X	X			X
3	Adopt coherence of standards at regional and continental level in order to facilitate market access	X	X	X			
4	Establish technical and financial support mechanisms for women entrepreneurs in terms of compliance with standards				X	X	X
5	Provide the necessary information through simple and accessible tools to facilitate the mastery of procedures and rules in standards.					X	X

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Non-Tariff Barriers							
1	Form strategic alliances and partnerships with key institutions, including national standards bodies			X	X	X	
2	Provide training to improve knowledge of and understanding of implications related to NTMs and NTBs to facilitate standards compliance for both women and customs officials (including training of women on NTB AU Monitoring tool to identify areas for advocacy)					X	X
3	Promote transparency and participation in regulatory processes (especially related to customs and border procedures).			X		X	
4	Facilitate frequent, scheduled, and standardized dialogues to forge partnerships, share good practices, and increase participation of women.	X	X	X		X	

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Trade in Services							
1	Training and capacity building of women entrepreneurs on the Trade in Services Protocol under AfCFTA		X	X		X	X
2	Participation and full involvement of women entrepreneurs in national/regional/continental committees and working groups on trade in services	X	X	X			
3	Establishment of a national network of information on trade in services (e.g. virtual platform)				X	X	X
4	Realization of promotional workshops for women entrepreneurs on the information network on trade in services				X	X	X
5	Making specific commitments in the service sectors where women entrepreneurs are very active			X			X
6	Opening of Mode 4 should be accompanied by the facilitation of the free movement of persons at the intra-continental level (right to enter)	X	X	X			
7	Development of mutual recognition agreements in the technical professional services sectors at the continental level, drawing on the experience of the RECs	X	X	X			
8	Development of African standards and upgrading in the service sectors of interest for women entrepreneurs	X	X	X		X	X
9	Making specific commitments in the provision of bank loan services, payment means services (bank cards, letters of credit, virtual currency (if applicable), etc.)	X		X			X
10	Encourage national level dialogue on public procurement policies for women entrepreneurs in procurement service contracts			X			

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ICT and Digital Trade							
1	Inclusion of ICT and digital trade in the Implementation of the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Services	X					
2	Assess capacity building needs for women as relates to ICT services and enhancing digital trade for developing tailor-made technical assistance					X	X
3	Conduct national workshops and disseminate information through other media on the benefits of ICT					X	
4	Create a trade information portal on ICT services and digital trade under the SheTrades website						X
5	Cooperation and matching of innovation hubs and trade fairs on ICT and digital platforms for enhancing peer to peer learning					X	X
6	Under the proposed coalition of Women in Services in the AfCFTA or SheTrades, establish a stand-alone chapter for Women in ICT services and digital trade	X				X	X

#	Recommendations	AU Policy Reforms	Actions for RECs	National Policy Reforms	Other actions by Govt	Actions by WBAs	Actions by others
Women's Business Associations (WBAs)							
1	Include a WBA representative in all national consultative meetings and participation at regional and continental levels	X	X	X		X	
2	WBAs proactively submit evidence to national trade negotiators and policy makers supporting WBA positions on identified areas of the agreement and supporting documents.					X	X
3	National and regional WBAs advocate for the development					X	

	and addition of accountability mechanisms and measures for gender equality and inclusion in the AfCFTA agreement.						
4	Equip WBAs to effectively participate in the monitoring and evaluation of inclusive trade indicators.					X	X
5	Strengthen and financially support national, regional and continental mechanisms through which WBAs can share information and best practices amongst themselves, hold public/private dialogues and raise the visibility of their advocacy issues.	X	X			X	X
6	Create partnerships with existing multi-regional service providers to facilitate the cohesive and smooth implementation of national, regional and continental WBA advocacy initiatives.					X	
7	Equip WBAs to use their large numbers to effectively conduct evidence based research and drive advocacy agendas.						X
8	Ensure sufficient funding is available for national, regional and continental WBAs to effectively undertake trade policy formulation / influencing and advocacy activities.		X			X	X
9	Equip national, regional and continental WBAs to design and implement effective national, regional and continental trade advocacy campaigns and to influence the formulation of trade policy.						X
10	Provide resources to motivate WBAs at all levels to leverage existing platforms and networks to create a unified and collaborative continental AfCFTA advocacy vehicle.						X