

የነፃ ንግድ ቀጠናው ቅኝት

2014

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AfCFTA IN ACTION

2021

Special Edition





Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (AACCSA)

Vision

To be a world class chamber, enabling the business community to be competitive locally and internationally and contribute to the attainment of the trade and investment goals of the country.

Mission

To promote trade and investment by providing demand driven services to the best satisfaction of members, stakeholders and others and advocate for favorable business environment based on best practices.

Organizational Virtues to be the driving force behind unifying businesses in Addis Ababa that would ultimately lead to the economic growth and vitality throughout the country.

Values

Core Values – are the heart of all that it does to benefit the business community and are always promoted consistently by the Board and staff.

- Accountable, credible and transparent;
- Business-oriented;
- Customer-focused;
- Innovative through creativity;
- Quality and improvement driven;
- Socially responsible;
- Team oriented;

ማውጫ



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ርዕስ አንቀጽ

ለውድድሩ ራሳችንን እናዘጋጃ!



በአዲስ አበባ ንግድና የዘርፍ ማኅበራት ሞ/ቤት የተዘጋጀ ልዩ መፅሔት
ታህሳስ 2014 ዓ.ም

ተወዳድረን እናሸንፋለን አሊያ እንከስማለን! የጊዜው መርህ ነው። የኢ.ፌ.ዴ.ሪ የህዝብ ተወካዮች ምክር ቤት የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ስምምነት አዋጅን ማጽደቁ የሚታወስ ነው።

ነጻ የንግድ ቀጠናውን በውል ከተጠቀምንበት እና ተወዳዳሪነታችንን ካንለበትን በሌሎች ሀገራት አስተማማኝ የገበያ ዕድል እንዲገኝ ይረዳል። በወጪንግድ ዕድገት ላይ የበለጠ መረጃ ማግኘት ይቻላል። የውጭ ቀጥታ ኢንቨስትመንት እንዲጨምር በር ይከፍታል።

በእርግጥ ኢትዮጵያ ከነጻ የአፍሪካ ገበያ ተጠቃሚ ለመሆን መስራት ያለባት የቤት ስራ እንዳለ ግልጽ ነው። ምክንያቱም በሀገሪቱ ያሉ አምራቾችና አገልግሎት ሰጭዎች በአለም አቀፍ ደረጃ የሚያመርቱት ምርትና አገልግሎት ጥራቱን የጠበቀና ተወዳዳሪ እንዲሁም ገበያ የሚሰብ መሆን አለበት።

በእርግጥ ውድድሩ ይበልጥ ሊጠናከር ይችላል የሚለው ጉዳይ እንዳለ ሆኖ ለዚህ ውድድር አሁን የግሉ ዘርፍ ዝግጁ ነው ወይ ሲባል አብዛኛው የሀገር ውስጥ ኩባንያዎች ካላቸው ጠንካራ የማይባል አቅም ውድድሩን ሊቋቋሙ አይችሉም።

ከዚህ በተጨማሪ ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ የሚገኙ የተለያዩ ወገኖች በተለይም የግሉ ዘርፍ ስለአህጉራዊው ነጻ ንግድ ቀጠና እና ስምምነቱ ላይ ያለው ዕውቀት ሠፊ ሊባል የሚችል አለመሆኑን የምናየው ነባራዊ ሀቅ ነው። ስለሆነም እንደ ንግድ ምክር ቤት በስምምነቱ

እና በአተገባበሩ ዙሪያ ሁሉም የኢኮኖሚ አጋር አካላትና ተዋንያን ሊሳተፉበት እና ሊገነዘቡት ይገባል የሚል ጽኑ እምነት አለን።

ስለሆነም በቅርቡ ወደ ተግባር የተገባውን የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ የነጻ ንግድ ቀጠና ስምምነት ምንነት፣ በግሉ ዘርፍ ላይ ያለው አንድምታ እንዲሁም የንግድ ሕብረተሰብ እና ባለድርሻ አካላት ዝግጅትና ትግበራ ምን መምሰል እንዳለበት የሚያነሳ ልዩ እትም ለማዘጋጀት ምክር ቤታችን ተነሳሽነትን ወስዶ እነሆ አቅርቧል።

የግሉ ዘርፍ ያለው አቅም እና ያሉበትን ተግዳሮቶች እድሎች በማንሳት አመላካች ሀሳቦች በመሰንዘር የግሉ ዘርፍ በስምምነቱ ውስጥ ጉልህ አስተዋፅኦ እንዲኖረው ምቹ ሁኔታ እንዲኖር በመጠኑም ቢሆን ግንዛቤ ይፈጥራል ብለን እናስባለን።

ስለሆነም የነጻ ንግድ ቀጠናው ቅኝት በሚል ባዘጋጀነው ይህ ልዩ እትም በአፍሪካ ነጻ ንግድ ላይ ያተኮሩ መረጃዎች፣ የኢትዮጵያ የግል ዘርፍ አቅም እና ዝግጁነት፣ ወቅታዊ ተግዳሮቶች እንዲሁም በባለሙያ የተሰነዘሩ የቀጣይ መፍትሄ ሀሳቦች የተካተቱበትና ለፖሊሲ ግብአት መነሻ ሊሆኑ የሚችሉ ነጥቦች የተንሸራሸሩበት ናቸው።

በመጨረሻም እንዲህ አይነቱን ልዩ እትም በቀጣይ ጊዜያት በወቅቱና በተከታታይ ደረጃውን በጠበቀ መልኩ የምናዘጋጅ ይሆናል።



ክንግዳችን

‘የነፃ ንግድ ቀጠናው ቀስ በቀስ የምርቶችን ቀረጥ በመንሳት ወደ አንድ ወጥ ገበያነት መግምጣት ነው’



ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ ደስታ፣ የአለምአቀፍ የምጣኔሃብት ህግ ምሁር እና የነፃ ንግድ ቀጠናው ስምምነት ሰነድ ዝግጅት አባል የነበሩ

በዚህ ልዩ የምክርቤታችን የመፅሔት እትም እንግዳችን ያደረግነው የአለምአቀፍን የምጣኔሃብት ህግ ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ ገበየ ደስታን ነው። ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ የነፃ ንግድ ቀጠና ስምምነት ሰነድ ሲዘጋጅ ከጥንሰሱ አንስቶ በባለሙያነት የተሳተፉ ናቸው። የስምምነቱ ረቂቅ ሰነድ ሲዘጋጅ የነበረው ወይይትና ድርድር ምን ይመስል እንደነበር፣ የሀገራችን ዝግጁነትና የሌሎች አፍሪካዊያን አቅም ምን ይመስላል የሚሉትን ጉዳዮች ከግለሰባዊ ተሞክሮ ጋር አዋህደው ከባልደረባችን ብርሃኑ በላቸው ጋር ቆይታ አድረገዋል። መልካም ንባብ ይሁንላችሁ።

አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- ለልዩ እትማችን ይረዳ ዘንድ ለቃለ መጠይቅ ፍቃደኛ በመሆንዎ እና ልምድዎን ለማካፈል ጊዜዎን ስለሰጡን እናመሰግናለን።

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- እኔም እድሉን በማግኘቴ አመሰግናለሁ።

አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- እራስዎን በማስተዋወቅ እንጀምር?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- መላኩ ገበየ ደስታ እባላለሁ። በእንግሊዝ ሌስተር ከተማ በሚገኝ ዩኒቨርሲቲ በአለምአቀፍ የምጣኔ ሃብት ህግ በፕሮፌሰርነት ማእረግ አገለግላለሁ። ለአስራ ሁለት አመታት ከሌክቸርሪነት እስከ ሲኒየር ሌክቸርሪ ደረጃ ድረስ አስተምሬአለሁ።

እ.ኤ.አ ከ 2004 ጀምሮ ከኢትዮጵያ መንግስት ጋር ሀገራችን የአለም የንግድ ድርጅት አባል ለመሆን ይደረግ በነበረው ሂደት በአማካሪነት ሰርቻለሁ። ባለፉት ስድስት አመታት ውስጥ በተባበሩት መንግስታት የአፍሪካ የኢኮኖሚ ኮሚሽን /UNECA/ በከፍተኛ አማካሪነት ስራ ቆይቻለሁ።

በተለይ የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ስምምነት ሰነድ ሲዘጋጅ ከፅንሱና ከጥንሰሱ ጀምሮ ነበርኩት ማለት እችላለሁ። ከዚሁ

ጉዳይ ጋር ተያይዞ በብዙ የአፍሪካ ሃገራት እየተዘዋወርኩ ብዙ ስራዎች ሰርቻለሁ። ሰፋፊ ልምድ ለመቅሰምም እድሉን አግኝቻለሁ።

አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- ስለቤተሰብዎ ጥቂት ያጫውቱን?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- ትዳር የያዘኩት በልጅነቴ ነው። አሁን የሶስት ልጆች አባት ነኝ ። ሶስቱም አሁን በእድሜ ትላልቅ ሆነዋል። ሁሉም ኑሮዎቻቸውን በእንግሊዝ ሃገር አድርገዋል። በአሁኑ ሰዓት የመጀመሪያ ልጄ በህግ ተመርቃ ለንደን ትሰራለች። ሁለቱ ወንዶች ልጆቼ ትምህርታቸውን በኮሌጅ እየተከታተሉ ይገኛሉ። በጣም ደስተኛ አባት ነኝ ብዬ አስባለሁ።

አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- የአፍሪካ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ስምምነት ሰነድ ረቂቅ ላይ ከጅምርው የእርስዎ አሻራ እንዳለ ሰምተናልና በወቅቱ የነበረው ሁኔታ ምን ይመስላል?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- ጥሩ ጥያቄ ነው። እርግጥ ነው ከተለያዩ የአፍሪካ ሃገራት የተውጣጡ ባለሙያዎች ተሰባስበው ረቂቅ ሰነድ እንዲያዘጋጁ መመሪያ ተላለፈ። እኔ በዚያን ወቅት የአፍሪካ ኢኮኖሚክ ኮሚሽን ውስጥ በከፍተኛ አማካሪነት አገለግል ነበር ። ያኔ እዚህ አዲስ አበባ መኖር ስላልቻልኩኝ ከደቡብ አፍሪካ/ ጆሃንስበርግ/ ሆኜ ይህንን ስራ እንዳግዝ እና ሌሎች ባልደረቦቻችን ከተለያዩ የአፍሪካ ሃገራት ወደ ጆርጋ እየመጡ እንድንሰራ በዋና አስተባባሪነት ተመድብኩ። በእርግጥ የመጀመሪያውን የስምምነቱን ሰነድ ረቂቅ ያዘጋጀነው አቢጃን አይቮሪኮስት ነበር። የኃላ ኃላ ግን ዋናው ስራ የተሰራው ናይሮቢ ኬኔያ ነበር ።

አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- የባለሙያዎቹ ቡድን ዋነኛ ሃላፊነት ምን ነበር ?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- ከተለያዩ የአፍሪካ ሃገራት የተውጣጡ ከአርባ በላይ ከፍተኛ የምጣኔ ሃብት ህግ ባለሙያዎች አንድ ላይ ሆነን ሃሳብ አዋጥተን ተማክረን፣ ተከራክረን። ለአህጉሩም ይጠቅማል የምንለውን ረቂቅ የሰነድ ሃሳብ አቀረብን ።

እኛ እንደባለሙያ ማቅረብ ነው፣ ከዚያ በኋላ ያንን ሰነድ በአፍሪካ ህብረት በኩል ለየሀገራቱ ተደራዳሪዎች ቀረበ። ዞሮ ዞሮ ውሳኔው ግን እያንዳንዱ ሀገር በራሱ አማካሪ አደራዳሪነት ተወያይቶ ተነጋግሮ ይሆነኛል ያለውንና ሊቀበለው የሚችለውን ብቻ ነው ሊወስድ የሚችለው።

አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- በወቅቱ ያኔ ያዘጋጃችሁት ረቂቅ የስምምነት ሰነድ እና በተጠናቀቀው ሰነድ መካከል ምን ይህል ልዩነት አለ ?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- እኛ እንደባለሙያ ያቀረብነው ረቂቅ ሰነድ እና የተጠናቀቀው/ ለትግበራ የተዘጋጀው/ ሰነድ ጎን ለጎን ሆነው ሲተያዩ ልዩነቱ በጣም ሰፊ ነው። ያ ደግሞ የሚጠበቅ ነው፤ ምክንያቱም እኛ እንደባለሙያ ለአህጉሩ ይጠቅማል የሚለውን ነው ይዘን የተነሳነው ። እያንዳንዱ ሀገር ደግሞ የራሱን ሀገር ብሄራዊ ጥቅም ይዞ ይደራደራል። ለአህጉሩ የሚጠቅም ሆኖ አንድን ሀገር የበለጠ ሊጎዳ ከቻለ ግን የዚያ ሀገር ተደራዳሪዎች ያ ስምምነት እንዳይካተት ያደርጋሉ ። ዞሮ ዞሮ የኛ ስራ መርዳትና ማስተባበር ነው፣ እነሱ ደግሞ መወሰን ነው።



አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- በነገራችን ላይ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ስንል ምን ማለት ነው ?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- የአፍሪካ ነጻ ንግድ ቀጠና ስንል በአህጉራቱ ሀገራት መካከል ነፃ እንቅስቃሴ /የሰዎች፣ የካፒታልና የሸቀጦች እንቅስቃሴ /እንዲኖር የድንበር ወሰኖች ለንግድ ጉዳይ ሲባል በሂደት እንደሌሉ መቁጠር ማድረግ ማስቻል ነው ።

የስምምነቱ ዋነኛ መርህ አፍሪካዊነትን ማቀንቀን ነው ። በፓን አፍሪካ ፅንሰ ሃሳብ የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ቀስ በቀስ የምርቶችን ቀረጥ የማንሳት እና ወደ አንድ ገበያነት መውሰድና ማመቻ መቻላቸው ነው።

አዲስ ቻምፒዮን:- እርስዎና ባለደረባዎቻችሁ ብዙ የደከማችሁበት ረቂቅ ሰነድ ተጠናቆ የሀገራት መሪዎች እኤአ በ2018 በኪጋሊ/ ሩዋንዳ ስምምነቱን ሲፈርመው ልፋታችሁ ለፍሬ ሲበቃ ምን ተሰማዎት?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- በጣም ነው ደስ ያለኝ። እኤአ ማርች 21 2018 ኪጋሊ ላይ ሲፈረም ከ55ቱ የህብረቱ አባል ሀገራት ውስጥ ያን አለት 44ቱ ናቸው ፈርማቸውን ያኖሩት። እኔ በአጋጣሚ መሪዎቹ በሚፈርሙበት አዳራሽ ውስጥ ነበርኩ ። ታሪክ ሲሰራ የመታዘብ እድል ነበረኝ ማለት ነው። በወቅቱ ኢትዮጵያን ወክለው የንግድ ሚኒስትር የተገኙ ሲሆን ሀገራቸውን ወክለው ፊርማውን ሲያኖሩ

መሰብሰቢያ አዳራሹ እንዴት እንዳስተጋባ እስከ አሁን ጆሮዬ ላይ ያቃጭልብኛል። ምክንያቱም ኢትዮጵያ በንግድ ጉዳዮች ስምምነት ዙሪያ ዳተኝነት በማሳየት ነው የምትታወቀው። የሚገርመው በሊግ አፍ ኔሽን ውስጥ ከነበሩት ሶስት የአፍሪካ ሀገሮች መካከል ኢትዮጵያ አንዷና ቀዳሚ ናት። የአለም ገንዘብ ድርጅት መስራች ሀገርም ናት። ይሁን እና ንግድን በተመለከተ ለምሳሌ የአጠቃላይ የንግድ እና የሸቀጥ ስምምነት ሲመሰረት ኢትዮጵያ የለችም።

ምንም እንኳን የአለም ንግድ ድርጅት አባል ለመሆን በሂደት ላይ ብንሆንም እስከ አሁን የድርጅቱ አባል አይደለንም። ሀገራችን የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ አካባቢያዊ ንዑስ የንግድ ቀጠና ተሳትፎዋ አነስተኛ ነው ማለት ይቻላል። ነገር ግን በአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ያሳየችው ተሳትፎ የሚደነቅ ነው።

ለንግድ ስምምነት እግር መጎተት ለምን እንደቀረ ሊያነጋግር ይችላል። አሁን ያለው እውነታ ግን የነፃው ንግድ ቀጠና ፈራሚ ብቻ ሳትሆን ኢትዮጵያ ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ ለክብሯ በሚመጥን ደረጃ የዚህ ንግድ ስምምነት መስራች አባል ሆናለች። ይህ በጣም ትልቅ ለውጥ ነው። በአተገባበሩም መበርታት ያስፈልጋል።

አዲስ ቻምበር:- የስምምነቱ ዋነኛ ዓላማ ምንድነው? ለአፍሪካውያን ምን ይዞ ይመጣል ?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና በአጅንዳ 2063 የተዋሃደች፣ የበለጸገች፣ ሰላማዊ አፍሪካን የመፍጠር የፓን አፍሪካ ራዕይ መሰረት ያለው ነው። በዚህም የአፍሪካን የኢኮኖሚ ውህደት የሚያስፋፋ በስዎች ነፃ እንቅስቃሴ የሚታገዝ የኢኮኖሚ እና የአገልግሎቶች አንድ ውህድ ገበያን መፍጠር አንዱ አላማው ነው። ከዚህም በተጨማሪ በሃገራት መካከል ኢንቨስትመንትን ያስፋፋል። እርስ በእርስ መነገድ ብዙ ኢኮኖሚያዊ ትሩፋቶች አሉት። የዚህ ሰፊ የንግድ ቀጠና እውን መሆን ለኢትዮጵያ የወጪ ምርቶች አስተማማኝ እና ሰፊ የገበያ ዕድሎችን ከመፍጠር ባለፈ አማራጭ ምርቶችን በተሻለ ዋጋ እንዲገኝ ያደርጋል የሚል እምነትም አለን። እኛ አፍሪካዊያን እርስ በእርስ በንግድ ስንተሳሰርና በውድድር መንፈስ ስንገበያይ ለሀገራችን ተጨማሪ የሥራ እድል በመፍጠርና የውጪ ቀጥታ ኢንቨስትመንት ፍሰት (FDI inflow) በቀላሉ በመጨመር የበኩሉን ሚና ይጫወታል የሚል ተስፋ አለን።

አዲስ ቻምበር :- ታዲያ የነፃ የንግድ ቀጠናው ስምምነት ረቂቅ ሰነድ ሲዘጋጅ የነበረው ውይይት እና ሀሳብ ፍጭት ምን ይመስል ነበር?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- ውይይቱ በጥቅሉ ሲታይ ጤናማ የሆነ ሃሳብ ግጭት ነበር። አንዳንድ ጊዜ ስንከራከር ሁኔታውን እና ይህ ነገር እኩ ተደራዳሪዎቻችንም ከእኛ በላይ ሊያጨቃጭቅ የሚችል አይመስለንም እንላለን። እኛ እዚህ የተቀመጠው ባለሙያ ሆነን እንጂ የሃገር ጥቅም ለማስጠበቅ አይደለም። ብዙ ከተከራከርን በኋላ ስንጨርስ አብረን በጋራ እንጫወታለን። የባለሙያ እይታ በአንድ ወገን ብሄራዊ ጥቅምና ውሳኔ በሌላ ወገን የተንጸባረቀበት ስራ ነበር ማለት እችላለሁ።

አዲስ ቻምበር:- እንደዚያ ከሆነ የባለሙያዎች ቡድን ከተለያዩ የአህጉራቱ ሀገራት የተውጣጡ እንደመሆናቸው መጠን የሚከፍሉን ገጠመኝ ይኖር ይሆን ?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- ጪጊግ አሉና፤ ለምሳሌ ለየት ያለና ሀገሮችን ሊጠቅም የሚችል አሰራር መመስረቻ ህግ አለ ። እናም በዚህ ህግ መሰረት ሀገራቱ በሁለት ይከፈላሉ። ያደጉ ሀገሮች እና ወደኋላ የቀሩ/ በማደግ ላይ ያሉ/ በሚል ስያሜ ይጠሩ ነበር። ኢትዮጵያ እንግዲህ ወደ ኋላ ከቀሩ/ በማደግ ላይ ያሉ ሀገራት ተርታ ትመደባለች።

እንደ ኢትዮጵያ ያሉ ሀገራት ደግሞ ህጉ የተሻለ መስተንግዶና አገልግሎት እንዲያገኙ ያደርጋል። ለአብነትም የአቅም ግንባታ ድጋፍ የሚጠቀስ ነው። እናም አንድ ቀን ስለኋላ ቀር ሀገራት ሊያገኙ ስለሚገባቸው ጥቅም ስንነጋገር አንደኛው የእኔን ስም በቀጥታ ጠርቶ እስኪ መላኩ እንዲያው ኢትዮጵያ የኢትዮጵያ አየር መንገድን የመሰለ ትልቅ ኩባንያ የምታስተዳድር ሀገር ኃላፊነት ብሎ ማሰብ እንዴትስ ይቻላል የሚል ጥያቄ ሲያነሳ ትዝ ይለኛል ። ኤር መንገዱ ምን ያህል በአፍሪካዊያን ዘንድ ገናና መሆኑን ማየት ይቻላል።

ሌላው ደግሞ በፈረንጅኛ 1991 የአፍሪካን ኢኮኖሚ ማህበረሰብ ለመመስረት የሚያስችል የአቡጃ ስምምነት ተፈርሟል። ሰነዱ ለማንበብ የሚመች እና የሚያገገን ነው፤ ነገር ግን በተግባር አልተሳካም ነበር። እና በስምምነቱ ላይ ውይይት እያደረግን ሳለን ከናይጄሪያ የመጣ አንድ ጓደኛችን በጣም እንዳልተደሰተ አየው ነበር ፤ የቅርብ ጓደኛዎች ነበርን እና በዚያ ሰአት እንደቀለድ ምነው ወንድሜ የአቡጃን ስምምነት መተቸት እኩ አቡጃን መተቸት አይደለም ! ምነው እንደዚህ አስጨነቀህ; እየተባባልን ስንሳሳቅ ትዝ ይለኛል።

አዲስ ቻምበር:- የነፃ ንግድ ቀጠናው ለአንድ ኢትዮጵያዊ ነጋዴ እና አምራች ምን መልካም እድሎች አሉት ?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና በርካታ መልካም እድሎች አሉት። የመጀመርያው አንድ ኢትዮጵያዊ ነጋዴ ወይም አምራች ንግዱን ወይም አገልግሎቱን በመላው አፍሪካ በነፃ በመንቀሳቀስ ማቅረብ ፤ መወዳደር እና

መገበያየት ያስችለዋል ። ምርቱን ወይም አገልግሎቱን ለ110 ሚሊዮን ኢትዮጵያዊያን ነበር የሚያቀርበው ነገር ግን በነፃ ንግድ ቀጠናው ለ1 ነጥብ 2 ቢሊዮን ለሚደርሱ አፍሪካዊያን የማቅረብ እድልን ይሰጠዋል፤ ሰፊ የገበያ እድል አለ። ኢንቨስትመንትም ይሰጣል ። ዋናው ጉዳይ ተወዳዳሪነትን ማሳደግ እንጂ ገበያው ሰፊና ባህር ነው።

አዲስ ቻምበር :- ስምምነቱ ምንስ ተግዳሮቶች አሉበት ?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- ሀገራት የተሰማሙትን ስምምነት ወደ ተግባር የመቀየር እንቅፋት በዋነኛነት ይጠቀሳል። ስምምነቱ ያስቀመጣቸው ህጎች የሃገር ውስጥ አካል አድርጎ በሃገር ውስጥ ያሉ ከስምምነቱ ተፃራሪ ህጎች እና አሰራሮችን አስተካክሎ መቅረፅ ይጠይቃል። ሌላው ከፍተኛ ውድድር እዚህ ጋር ይነሳል ።

አዲስ ቻምበር:- ከቀጠናው በሀገር ደረጃ ተጠቃሚነታችንን ለማሳደግ ማን ምን ማድረግ ይጠበቅብናል?

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- በመጀመርያ በነፃው ንግድ ስምምነት ዙርያ ለሚመለከታቸው አካላት ሁሉ ተከታታይ የግንዛቤ ማስጨበጫ መድረክ ሊዘጋጅ ይገባል። መንግስት ይደራደራል እንጂ አይነግድም። አምራች እና ነጋዴው በንግድ ዙርያ የሚገጥመውን ጫና ለመቅረፍ ከመንግስት ጋር አብሮ መስራት ይኖርበታል።

አዲስ ቻምበር:- ያለዎትን ጊዜ ሰጥተው ተሞክርዎን ስላካፈሉን በአዲስ ቻምበር ስም አመሰግናለሁ።

ፕሮፌሰር መላኩ:- እኔም ስለተሰጠኝ እድል እጅግን አመሰግናለሁ።

የአፍሪካ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ፣ በወፍ በረር

በካሳህን ማሞ



አፍሪካን በኢኮኖሚ ማሞላት እንቅስቃሴ ከአፍሪካ አንድነት ድርጅት አፈጣጠር ጋር የተያያዘ ነው። የፖለቲካ ነፃነት በኢኮኖሚ ነፃነት ካልታጀበ በስተቀር አፍሪካ ዞሮ ዞሮ በእጅ አዙር ቅኝ አገዛዝ መቀጠል እንደማይቀር የያዘው የአፍሪካ አንድነት ድርጅት መስራቾቹ ተረድተውት ነበር።

እናም በመጀመሪያ አካባቢ በእያናዳንዱ ንዑስ ቀጠና አንድ ላይ ሆነው ጎርቤቶች የነፃ ንግድ ስርአት የሚመሰርቱበትን የኢኮኖሚ ውህደት ለመፍጠር ተሞክረዋል። ከዚያ በ1980 የሌጎስ የኢኮኖሚ መርሃ ግብር አፍሪካን አንድ ለማድረግ አንድ ሰነድ ተዘጋጀ።

በ1990 ደግሞ የአቡጃ ስምምነት ጎልቶ መጣ፡ የአቡጃ ስምምነት ከሌጎሱ የሚለየው ብዙ አስርት አመታትን ወደ ፊት የተመለከተ ዝርዝር ጉዳዮችን የሚዳስስ እና አፍሪካ አንድ የምትሆንበት መርሃ ግብር የተነደፈበት ነበር ፡ ፡ ይሁን እና የአቡጃው ስምምነት የተነሳለትን አፍሪካን አንድ ከማድረግ ይልቅ የተለያዩ ንዑስ ክፍሎችን ስላበዛ ስምምነቱ ሳይሳካ ቀረ።

ከእነዚህ መካከል በኋላ ነው እንግዲህ የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና የአፍሪካ ህብረት እ.ኤ.አ በ2012 በአዲስ አበባ ባደረገው 18ኛው መደበኛ ስብሰባ እንዲመሰረት የወሰነው። ከዚህ በኋላ በ2015 የህብረቱ የመሪዎች ጉባዔ

በደቡብ አፍሪካ 2ኛውን መደበኛ ስብሰባ በማካሄድ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ድርድር በይፋ እንዲጀመር ውሳኔ አሳለፈ።

በ2018 ስምምነቱ በኪጋሊ/ሩዋንዳ ሲፈረም ከ55ቱ የህብረቱ አባል ሃገራት ውስጥ 44ቱ ፊርማቸውን አኖሩ ። በአሁኑ ወቅት ከኤርትራ በስተቀር ሁሉም የአህጉራቱ ሀገራት ስምምነቱን ፈርመዋል ። ኢትዮጵያን ጨምሮ 42 ሀገራት ደግሞ በፓርላማቸው አፅድቀዋል።

የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና በአጅንዳ 2063 “የተሞሃደች፣ የበለፀገች፣ ሰላማዊ አፍሪካን” የመፍጠር የፓን አፍሪካ ራዕይ መሰረት ያለው ነው። በዚህም የአፍሪካን አህጉር የኢኮኖሚያዊ ውህደት የሚያስፋፋ

በሰዎች ነፃ እንቅስቃሴ የሚታገዝ የአቃዎች እና የአገልግሎቶች አንድ ውህድ ገበያን መፍጠር አንዱ ዓላማው ነው። ከዚህም በተጨማሪ በሀገራት መካከል ያለውን ባህላዊ እና የህዝብ ለህዝብ ትስስር ያጠናክራል። በሀገራት መካከል ኢንቨስትመንትን ማመቻቸት ሌላው ዓላማው ነው።

የአፍሪካ ህብረት የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ስምምነትን ተግባር ላይ ማዋል እ.ኤ.አ በ 2022/23 በአፍሪካ ሀገራት መካከል የሚደረገውን የንግድ ልውውጥ አሁን ካለበት በ60% ከፍ እንደሚያደርገው ይጠበቃል ብሏል።

የአፍሪካ የእርስ በርስ የንግድ ትስስር ሁኔታ መረጃዎች እንደሚጠቁሙት አፍሪካ በአሁኑ ወቅት በአለም ላይ ያላት የንግድ ድርሻ 3% ብቻ ነው። ይህ አህዝብ ቀደም ካሉት ጊዜያት

ለአብነትም በ1948 ከነበረው ድርሻ 8% ጋር ሲነፃፀር ከጊዜ ወደ ጊዜ እያሸቆለቆለ መሆኑን ያመለክታል። የአፍሪካ የወጪ ንግድን ስንመለከት ደግሞ ከአህጉሩ ውጪ ኤክስፖርት የሚደረጉ ምርቶች በአብዛኛው እሴት ያልተጨመረባቸው ጥሬ እቃዎች ላይ ያተኮሩ ናቸው።

የአፍሪካ ሀገራት በመካከላቸው ያለው የንግድ ግንኙነት ከሌሎች ክፍለዓለማት ጋር ሲነፃፀርም ዝቅተኛ ደረጃ ላይ ይገኛል። በአሁኑ ወቅት በአፍሪካ ሀገራት መካከል የሚደረገው ንግድ ከጠቅላላው ንግድ 10 % ያህል ብቻ ነው። የሌሎች ክፍለ ዓለማትን ብንመለከት የአውሮፓ 60 % የሰሜን አሜሪካ 40 % ሲሆን የእስያ ደግሞ 33 % ደርሷል።

የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ውህደት

ክልላዊ ውህደቱ ሁለትና ከሁለት በላይ የሆኑ ሉአላዊ ሀገሮች ወይንም የጉሙሩክ ክልሎች ለውህደቱ የሚያስፈልጉ ተቋማትን በማቋቋም ፕሮግራሞቻቸውን እና ፖሊሲዎቻቸውን የሚያሞክሩበት ስርዓት ነው።



ክልላዊ ውህደቱ የተለያዩ ደረጃዎች አሉት። ከእነዚህም መካከል በዋነኛነት ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና፣ የጉሙሩክ ህብረት፣ የጋራ ገበያ፣ የኢኮኖሚ ህብረት እና የፖለቲካ ህብረት የሚሉት ይገኙበታል።

ሀገራት በንግድ ድርድሩ የሚሳተፉት ለዘለቄታዊ እድገት፣ ስራአጥነትን ለመቀነስ እና የንግድ ሚዛን ጉድለትን ለመቀነስ ነው። እነዚህ ድርድሮች ከንግድ የሚገባውን ጥቅም በማግኘት በአለምአቀፍ የንግድ ስርዓት ተጠቃሚነትንም ያሳድጋል።

የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና 2 ነጥብ 5 ትሪሊዮን ዶላር የሚደርስ ጥቅል ሀገራዊ ምርት ይሸፍናል። ቀጠናው ከአለም ንግድ ድርጅት ምስረታ በኋላ የአለማችን ግዙፉ ቀጠና ተደርጎ ይወስዳል። ለዚህም በምክንያትነት የሚጠቀሰው የህዝብ ብዛት እና ሰፊ የገበያ እድሎች ናቸው። አሁን ያለው 1 ነጥብ 2 ቢሊዮን የአፍሪካ ህዝብ በ2050 ወደ 2 ነጥብ 5 ቢሊዮን እንደሚያደግ ይጠበቃል።

የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና መልካም እድሎች

መረጃዎች እንደሚሉት የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና በርካታ መልካም እድሎች አሉት። ከእነዚህም መካከል ለኢትዮጵያ ወጪ ምርቶች አስተማማኝ እና ሰፊ የገበያ እድሎችን ይፈጥራል። ቀጥታ የውጭ ኢንቨስትመንት ፍላጎት እንዲጨምር በር ይከፍታል።

አማራጭ ምርቶች በተሻለ ዋጋ እንዲገኝ ያደርጋል። ተጨማሪ የስራ እድሎችን ይፈጥራል። በሀገራት መካከል የሚከሰቱ ግጭት እና አለማግባባቶችን ለመቀነስ እድል ይሰጣል። በንግድ የተሳሰሩ ሀገሮች በቀላሉ ወደ ጦርነት አይገቡም ተብሎ

ይታሰባል፣ እቃዎች ድንበር አልፈው የሚሄዱ ከሆነ ታንኮች እና ወታደሮች የማለፍ እድላቸው የጠበበ ይሆናል። ሀገር በኢኮኖሚ በተሳሰረ ቁጥር በእያንዳንዱ ጎርቤቶቹ ሰላም ማደር ተጠቃሚ ይሆናልና።

የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ተግዳሮቶች

የአፍሪካ አህጉር ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ተግዳሮቶችም አሉበት። በዋናነት ከፍተኛ ውድድር ይጠቀሳል። የአህጉሩ ሀገራት በእኩል የእድገት ደረጃ ላይ አለመሆናቸው ለማዕቀፉ ተፈጻሚነት ትልቅ እንቅፋት ይሆናል።

በሀገራት መካከል ከፍተኛ ውድድር ይኖራል። የመሰረተ ልማት እጦት እና ዝቅተኛ ምርታማነት ከተግዳሮቶች መካከል ይጠቀሳሉ። ከዚህም በተጨማሪ ሀገራት የተስማሙትን ስምምነት ወደ ተግባር የመቀየር እንቅፋት ይሰተዋላል። ስምምነቱ ያስቀመጣቸው ህጎች የሃገር ውስጥ ህግ አካል አድርጎ ከስምምነቱ ተፃሪ ህጎችን አስተካክሎ መቅረፅ ይጠይቃል።

በቀጠናው ተጠቃሚነትን ለማረጋገጥ ምክረ ሀሳብ

ባለሙያዎች እንደሚመክሩት ዋናው ጉዳይ የቀጠናውን ምንነት በመረዳት ይጀመራል ይላሉ። በነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ዙርያ ለሚመለከታቸው የመንግስት እና የግሉ ዘርፍ ተዋጊዎች የግንዛቤ ማስጨበጫ መድረክ በተከታታይ ሊዘጋጅ ይገባል።



የንግድ ስምምነቱን ውጤታማ በሆነ መንገድ ለመተግበርም ኢትዮጵያ የፋይናንስና ኢኮኖሚ ተቋማቷን አሠራር በማሻሻልና ቀድሞ በመተግበር የንግዱን ማህበረሰብ ማነቃቃት ያስፈልጋል። በተለይ የጥሬ እቃዎች ጥራትና አጥረት፣ የማምረቻ ዋጋ ማሻቀብ፣ የንግድ ማሳለጫ አገልግሎት ውጤታማ አለመሆን፣ የውጪ ምንዛሬ አጥረትና የሀይል መቆራረጥ፣ የተጣጣመ የንግድ ፖሊሲ አለመኖር ሌላኛዎቹ የማምረቻ ኢንዱስትሪዎችን ተወዳዳሪነት ሊፈታተኑ የሚችሉበት ሁኔታ መፍትሄ ያሻቀዳል።

የሀገሪቱ የምርት አቅርቦት ማነቆ እንዲሁም በሀገሪቱ ያለው ንግድን ለማከናወን ያለው ከባቢ ሁኔታ (doing business environment) ስራዎች እየተሰራባቸውና ከጊዜ ወደ ጊዜ መሻሻል እያሳዩ ቢሆንም አሁንም ከሌሎች ሀገራት አንጻር ትኩረት ተሰጥቶ ይበልጥ አስቸይ መሆን ይኖርባቸዋል።

ከጥናት ማህደር

‘ኢትዮጵያ በቆዳ፣ በና፣ ጨርቅ ጨርቅ እና የቁም ከብቶች ዘርፍ በቀጠናው ተወዳዳሪ ልትሆን ትችላለች’

በብርሃኑ በላቸው



አቶ ሙሴ ምንዳዬ፣ ከንግድና ቀጠናዊ ትሰሰር ሚኒስቴር

የኢትዮጵያ የወጪ ንግድ አቅም በአብዛኛው በአፍሪካ ደረጃ ተወዳዳሪ መሆኑን የአዲስ አበባ ንግድ እና የዘርፍ ማህበራት ም/ቤት ከአፍሪካ ኮንሰልቲንግ ሰርቪስ ከሚባል ድርጅት ጋር በጋራ በመሆን ያካሄዱት ጥናት ያመለክታል።

የጥናቱ ዋነኛ ዓላማ የኢትዮጵያ ኩባንያዎች ከአፍሪካ ሃገራት ጋር ያላቸው የወጪ ንግድ እምቅ የገበያ እድሎች፣ ተግዳሮቶች እና የመፍትሄ ሃሳቦች ላይ ያተኩራል።

የገበያ ውድድር አንድ ኩባንያ የሚያመርተውን ምርት ሆነ አገልግሎት በትክክለኛ ጥራት እና ዋጋ፣ በትክክለኛ ጊዜ፣ በቴክኖሎጂ በመታገዝ ማቅረብ ሲችል መሆኑን ያካትታል።

አለም አቀፍ የገበያ ውድድሮች የሚለኩባቸው የራሳቸው የሆኑ መስፈርቶች አሏቸው። ከእነዚህም መስፈርቶች መካከል የተቋማት ብቃት፣ የመሰረተ ልማት ግንባታ፣ የማክሮ ኢኮኖሚ ሁኔታ፣ የሰው ሃይል ሃብት፣ የፋይናንስ አቅርቦት፣ የቴክኖሎጂ ዝግጁነት እና የገበያ መጠን ይጠቀሳሉ።

ከአፍሪካ ሃገራት መካከል የመጀመሪያዋ በወጪ ንግድ ተወዳዳሪነት ተጠቃሽ ሞሪሸየስ ስትሆን ከአለማችን 138 ሃገራት ደግሞ 45ኛ ደረጃ ላይ ትገኛለች። ሩዋንዳ በሁለተኛ ደረጃ ስትከተላት ደቡብ አፍሪካ እና ቦትስዋና በቅደም ተከተል በወጪ ንግድ ተወዳዳሪነት 3ኛ እና 4ኛ ደረጃ ላይ ተቀምጠዋል።

በጥናቱ እንደተመለከተው ከሆነ ኢትዮጵያ ከአፍሪካ ሃገራት በወጪ ንግድ ውድድር 13ኛ ደረጃ ላይ ትገኛለች። ይህ ደረጃ ከአፍሪካ ሃገራት አንፃር መልካም ቢባልም ብዙ መስራት ይጠበቃል ይላል ጥናቱ። ሀገራችን ከ138 መላው ሃገራት ጋር በምርት ተወዳዳሪነት ደግሞ 108ኛ ደረጃ ላይ ትገኛለች።

በአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና የኢትዮጵያ ተወዳዳሪ ምርቶች መካከል በዋናነት የሚጠቀሱት ቆዳ እና የቆዳው ውጤቶች ፣ ቡና፣ ጨርቃ ጨርቅ እና የቁም ከብቶች ይገኙበታል።

የአጥጋኚው አባል አቶ ሙሴ ምንዳዬ የኢትዮጵያ የኤክስፖርት አቅም በአብዛኛው በአፍሪካ ደረጃ ተወዳዳሪ መሆኑን በጥናት አረጋግጠናል ብለዋል። በተለይም የቆዳ እና ቆዳ ውጤቶች ምርትን በማሳያነት ጠቅሰዋል። ይሁን እና ከአግሮፕሮሰሲንግ ጋር በተያያዘ ግን የተወዳዳሪነት አቅም ከፍተኛ መኖሩን አመልክተዋል።

ከሎጂስቲክስ አፈፃፀም አንፃር ብንመለከት በ2016 በተደረገአንድ ጥናት መሰረት ኢትዮጵያ 126ኛ ደረጃ ላይ ትገኛለች። ይህ ዝቅተኛ አፈፃፀም የሀገራችንን ኩባንያዎች በወጪ ገበያ የተዋዳዳሪነት አቅማቸውን ያሳንሳል። ለዚህም በምክንያትነት የሚጠቀሰው የመሰረተ ልማት ግንባታ አጠቅጋጅ የካርጎ አጥረት፣ እና በወደቦች ለረዥም ጊዜ መቆየት ናቸው።

ጥናቱ እንደሚያስረዳው ከ2013-2019 ባለው ጊዜ ውስጥ የኢትዮጵያ የወጪ ንግድ ገቢ በአማካኝ 2 ነጥብ 9 ቢሊዮን ዶላር ገደማ ነው። በአብዛኛው በየአመቱ የወጪ ንግዳችን እያሸቆለቆለ ነው የመጣው ። ሀገራችን በዋናነት ከምትልካቸው ምርቶች መካከል ቡና፣ ጫት፣ የቁምከብት፣ ቆዳና ሌጦ ምርቶች ይጠቀሳሉ።

የእነዚህ ምርቶች ዋነኛ መዳረሻዎች ደግሞ ቻይና፣ ጀርመን፣ ኔዘርላንድስ፣ ጃፓን፣ ዩናይትድ ኪንግደም እና ኮርያ

ይገኙበታል። ይሁን እና ሀገራችን በወጪ ንግድ ከአፍሪካ ሀገራት ጋር ያላት የንግድ ድርሻ አነስተኛ ነው ። ከአፍሪካ ሀገራት የወጪ ንግድ መዳረሻዎች መካከል ሱማሊያ እና ጅቡቲ ይጠቀሳሉ።

ሌላው ጥናቱ ከ2013-2019 ባለው ጊዜ ውስጥ ሀገራችን የምታስገባው ምርት በአማካኝ 15 ነጥብ 1 ቢሊዮን ዶላር ሲሆን ይህም ባለፉት አምስት አመታት በአማካኝ በ3 ነጥብ 7 ቢሊዮን ዶላር እምርታ አሳይቷል። በአብዛኛው ከሌሎች ሀገራት የምናስገባው ምርቶች ኤሌክትሮኒክስ፣ ማሽን፣ ማዕድን፣ መኪና፣ ብረታ ብረት እና የፋራማሲ ምርቶች ይጠቀሳሉ።

እነዚህን ምርቶች ከምናስገባቸው ሀገራት መካከል ቻይና ትልቁን ድርሻ ትይዛለች ። ጃፓን፣ ህንድ፣ አሜሪካ፣ ጀርመን፣ ቱርክ፣ እና ሌሎች ሀገራትም ይገኙበታል። ከአፍሪካ ሀገራት የምናስገባው ምርት እጅግ አነስተኛ

ነው። እንደ ጥናቱ ከሆነ የማእድን ምርትን ከሱዳን እና ከደቡብ አፍሪካ እናስገባለን።

ኢትዮጵያ እስከ አሁን ድረስ ከ20 ሀገራት ጋር የሁለትዮሽ የንግድ ስምምነት ተፈራርማለች። ከእነዚህም ውስጥ 12ቱ ከአፍሪካ ሀገራት ጋር ሲሆን ስምምነቱ ባለፉት 25 ዓመታት የተፈረመ ነው። ሀገራቱም ጅቡቲ፣ ኬንያ፣ ሱዳን፣ ደቡብ ሱዳን፣ ሊቢያ፣ አልጄሪያ፣ ቱኒዲያ፣ ናይጄሪያ፣ ኢኳቶሪያል ጊኒ፣ ጋምቢያ፣ ግብፅ፣ እና ሩዋንዳ ናቸው።

ከ20 የሁለትዮሽ ስምምነቶች መካከል 18ቱ ስምምነቶች አጠቃላይ ንግድ ስምምነት ሲሆን ሁለቱ ስምምነቶች ከሱዳን እና ደቡብ ሱዳን ደግሞ ልዩ የንግድ ስምምነቶች ናቸው።



ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠናው እና ጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ የንግድ ተቋማት



ብርሃኑ በላቸው

መረጃዎች እንደሚያመለክቱት በመላው አለም 90 በመቶ ቢዝነሶች የሚንቀሳቀሱት በጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት ነው። እነዚህ ተቋማት ከግማሽ በመቶ በላይ የስራ እድል የመፍጠር አቅም አላቸው።

እ.ኤ.አ በ2018/19 የአለም ባንክ ባወጣው ሪፖርት በመላው አፍሪካ 415 ሚሊዮን ህዝብ በከፋ ድህነት ውስጥ ይገኛሉ። ይህ ቁጥር በአለማችን ድህነት ውስጥ ከሚገኙት 57 በመቶ ድርሻ ይሸፍናል።

የአለም ባንክ ለ2035 እጅግ በከፋ ድህነት ላሉ አፍሪካውያን በ10 ነጥብ 9 በመቶ ድህነቱ እንደሚቀንስ ትንበያውን አስቀምጧል። ቀጠናው በሙሉ አቅሙ ተግባራዊ ሲሆን ተጨማሪ 30 ሚሊዮን ህዝብን እጅግ ከከፋ ድህነት ያወጣል ተብሎ ይጠበቃል።

የፓን አፍሪካ ንግድና ኢንዱስትሪ ምክር ቤት የኢንዱስትሪያል ፕሮጀክት አማካሪ አቶ ጌታቸው መላኩ ለልዩ እትማችን በጉዳዩ ላይ በሰጡት አስተያየት ጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት የስራ እድል በመፍጠር ድርሻቸው ከፍተኛ ነው። ይሁን እና ከአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ጋር በተያያዘ ዘላቂ ስራ ላይ ትኩረት ማድረግ እንደሚገባ አመልክተዋል።

ለአብነትም በቀጠናው የሚከናወን የኢትዮ-ጅቡቲ ኮሪዶርን አንስተዋል። ኮሪዶሩ በቀጠናው የገቢ እና የወጪ የቢዝነስ እንቅስቃሴ ዋና ተጠቃሽ ነው። የኮሪዶሩ ልማት



በተለይም ለጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት የስራ እድል መፍጠር ብቻ ሳይሆን የስራውን ዘላቂነት ያረጋግጣል። ለማሳያነትም በኮሪዶሩ መስመር በየቀኑ በመቶዎች የሚሸከረከሩ መኪኖች በመኖራቸው ለመኪኖቹ የሰርቪስ ስራና በዙሪያው የሚሰሩ ጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት ማደራጀት ተጠቃሚነታቸውን ያሳድጋል ብለዋል።

ከአፍሪካ መደበኛ ባልሆነው ሀገር አቋራጭ ንግድ ላይ ከተሰማሩ አንቀሳቃሶች ውስጥ ሴቶች 70 በመቶውን እንደሚያዙ ይገመታል። በዚህ ስራ ላይ ተሰማርተው ያሉ ሴቶች ለጥቃቅን፣ ለሙብት ጥሰት፣ ለሸቀጦች መወረስ፣ እና ለእስራት የተጋለጡ ናቸው።

የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና ታሪክን በመቀነስ መደበኛ ባልሆነ ዘርፍ ለተሰማሩ ነጋዴዎች የተሻለ ከለላ በሚሰጠው ወደ መደበኛ ዘርፍ እንዲገቡ ሊያደርግ ይችላል። እንደ አቶ ጌታቸው ገለፃ ፣ የጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት በተለይ ለሴቶች የስራ እድልን በመፍጠር ረገድ የጎላ ስተዋል

አላቸው። ጥናቶች እንዳረጋገጡት በሴቶች የሚመሩ የጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት በወንዶች ከሚመሩት በተሻለ የስራ እድል ፈጥረዋል።

አሁን ተግባራዊ እየተደረገ የሚገኘው 6 ነጥብ 1 በመቶ የታሪፍ መጠን የአፍሪካ ነጋዴዎች በአህጉሩ ውስጥ የሚያከናውኑትን የወጪ ንግድ አዳጋች እድርጎባቸዋል። የአፍሪካ አህጉራዊ ነፃ የንግድ ቀጠና በሂደት በአፍሪካ የውስጥ ንግድ ላይ ያለውን ታሪፍ ያስወግዳል። ይህም የአፍሪካ ነጋዴዎች በአህጉሩ ውስጥ የሚያከናውኑትን ንግድ በተለይም የጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት እንቅስቃሴ ለማሳለጥ ያስችላል።

ይሁን እና ጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት ተግባራዊነት አሉባቸው። በጥናቶች የተለዩት በአፍሪካም ሆነ በኢትዮጵያ የሚስተዋሉ አራት መሰረታዊ ችግሮች ናቸው። እነርሱም፡

- * የገንዘብ አቅርቦት እጥረት፣
- * የመስሪያ ስፍራ ችግር፣
- * የገበያ ተደራሽነት ችግር እና
- * የሙያ ክህሎት ብቃት ማነስ በዋናነት ይጠቀሳሉ።

እነዚህን ችግሮች በመፍታት ጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት ከቀጠናው ተጠቃሚነታቸውን ለማሳደግ ከወዲሁ ዝግጁ መሆን እንዳለባቸው አቶ ጌታቸው ተናግረዋል። ተቋማቱ ምን አይነት ምርት እና አገልግሎት ማን እንደሚፈልግ በግልፅ ማወቅ ይጠበቅባቸዋል። ወቅቱን ያገናዘበ ተፈላጊ ምርት እና አገልግሎት ለማቅረብ የተዘጋጁ ሊሆን ይገባል።

መንግስትም በሀገሪቱ ለሚንቀሳቀሱ ጥቃቅን እና ክነስተኛ ተቋማት አቅም በማጎልበት ፣ ተቋማትን በማጠናከር ፣ እና የብድር አቅርቦት ማጠናከር ይጠበቅበታል።

ቁጥሮች ምን ያሳያሉ?

የአፍሪካ አገሮች በአሁኑ ወቅት ያላቸው የታሪፍ መጠን

ተ.ቁ	የሃገሪቱ ስም	አማካይ ታሪፍ(%)	ከታሪፍ ነጻ የሆኑ ምርቶች (%)
1	ሞሪሸስ	0.8	95.8
2	ሲሸልስ	3.2	86.7
3	ቦትስዋና	7.7	60.4
4	ሌሴቶ	7.7	60.4
5	ናምቢያ	7.7	60.4
6	ደቡብ አፍሪካ	7.7	60.4
7	ስዋዚላንድ	7.7	60.4
8	ሞሮኮ	11.5	60.4
9	ቴኔዚያ	11.6	54.8
10	ኪፕ ቨርድ	10	45
11	ሩዋንዳ	12.7	45.1
12	ኡጋንዳ	12.8	37
13	ቡሩንዲ	12.8	36.9
14	ታንዛንያ	12.9	36.9
15	ኬንያ	13.5	37.6
16	ማላዊ	12.4	32.2
17	ዛምቢያ	13.5	26.8
18	ኮሞሮስ	15.4	11.7
19	ግብጽ	19.1	11.8
20	ዙምባቢዌ	17.4	9.7
21	ማዳጋስካር	11.7	5.6
22	ኢትዮጵያ	16.8	7.03
24	ሞዛምቢክ	10.1	3.6
25	ኮንጎ	11.9	3.2
26	ጋቦን	17.7	2.7
27	ናይጄሪያ	12.1	2.5
28	ጋና	12.2	1.7
29	ቤኒን	12.2	1.5
30	ቡኪና-ፋሶ	12.2	1.5
31	ኮትዲቮር	12.2	1.5
32	ማሊ	12.2	1.5
33	ኒጄር	12.2	1.5
34	ሴኔጋል	12.2	1.5
35	ቶጎ	12.2	1.5
36	አልጄርያ	18.9	1.4
37	ሳኦቶሚ ፕሪንሲ	10	1.1
38	ማዕከላዊ አፍሪካ ሪፐብሊክ	18	0.6
39	ቻድ	17.9	0.6
40	ዲሞክራቲክ ሪፐብሊክ ኮንጎ	10.9	0.4
41	አንጎላ	9.2	45.1



High Level panel discussion on **AfCFTA: Challenges and Opportunities for Ethiopian Businesses**



Professor Amosha Adeb
Associate, Addis Ababa University (AAU)
Panelist



Mr. Youssef Agre
Senior Executive, Trade & Industry Association of Ethiopia
Panelist



Mr. Gerslous Feyissa
Secretary General, Addis Chamber
Municipalis



Mr. Shesha Werede
Executive, Multinational Trade Negotiation
Association, Ministry of Trade and Industry
Panelist



Mr. Yohannes Gebremariam
President, Ethiopian Foreign Investment and
Cooperation Association (EFICA)
Panelist



Mr. Daniel Endelash
Secretary General, Ethiopian Leather Industries
Association (ELIA)
Panelist



Feb 25, 2021

Venue: Skylight Hotel

Organized By: Addis Ababa Chamber of commerce





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ADDIS CHAMBER



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Addis Ababa Chamber of
Commerce and Sectoral
Associations Special Edition on
AfCFTA

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Editorial

Ready to Compete in AfCFTA

Trade competition is considered a pillar for the socio-economic development of a nation. However, an ethical business should be the prerequisite to swimming in a competition. For effective trade competition, the lesson and experience from the international business entities are unquestionable.

As the oldest and strongest chamber in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa Chamber shoulders the responsibility of undertaking capacity building and advocacy works in favor of improved business and investment climate and protecting the interest of its members and the business community at large. In view of this, Addis Chamber has been engaging the government and the private sector in sensitizing the effectiveness and implementation of the free trade agreement.

One of the hottest topics being debated in various forums in relation to Africa's economy is the problem of regional

integration. It has been expressed since the independence of African countries, considering the will of African leaders to contain the perverse effects of the balkanization of the continent.

Of course, there is an emerging consensus that trade, if well managed, could play an important role in confronting socio-economic challenges. To promote businesses competitiveness, trade, and integration in Africa, the 18th assembly of heads of State and the Government of the African Union decided to establish a Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

To further enhance trade and investment, the government of Ethiopia is now demonstrating its commitment to regional and international trade integration by signing various agreements and is pushing forward to the accession process of World Trade Organization and has fully endorsed engagement in intra-Africa trade the



treaty of which has ratified unanimously by the House of People's Representative of Ethiopia, which issued a declaring acceptance of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

As a chamber, the free trade area obviously allows companies in a local economy to sell their products to foreign customers. Trade restrictions often include a clause that requires companies to establish a physical presence in the countries they sell in. This is potentially costly to businesses that operate out of a single location.

Moreover, some of Ethiopia's manufacturing firms are less competitive in international market by price and quality of products. Thus, to stay in the market, firms will need to increase their competitiveness by way of cost reductions and enhancing their efficiency.

In many parts of the continent, private sector organizations have engaged in advocacy works with their respective governments to bring about conducive business and investment environment in their countries. Such efforts can yield better results when the awareness creation campaign is undertaken collectively at national, regional and continental levels, and the capacity of the private sector is strengthened.

Basing on the above, this special magazine devoted to AfCFTA will contribute in highlighting the main policy and firm-level challenges in joining AfCFTA, lessons from country experiences and the major policy recommendations for action by the government together with corresponding policy instruments.

In general, the success of AfCFTA hinges on the ability of African and Ethiopian firms to understand and capitalize on the trade related opportunities offered by the agreement.

While competing globally as well as in African free trade, Ethiopia as a country must be ready to join the global competition. In this regard, business entities or service providers must enhance and deliver quality products that can enter the continental market.

At present, there is a big doubt about the current nature of the Ethiopian economy as well as the private sector to compete globally and hence the government should trade-off all kinds of concerns and realities while dealing with international organizations. Moreover, it is imperative to take cautions and actions before too late. The government, business membership organizations and even media should collaborate to sensitize the issue, creating an enabling environment for business ecosystem, strengthening the capacity of the private sector, promoting AfCFTA and ensuring Competition.



SPECIAL GUEST

‘Creating a single market for goods and services is inevitable for Africa’



Prof. Melaku Desta, International Economic Lawyer

In this special magazine edition, our guest is Professor Melaku Geboye Desta. Professor Melaku is an international economic lawyer by profession and has been involved in the drafting of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement since its inception. Our staff member Birhanu Belachew sat down with this scholar to talk about the role of AfCFTA, the impact and effects to the domestic economy (domestic firms). Excerpts:

Addis Chamber:- Thank you for your willingness to share us your experience sir.

Professor Melaku:- I really thank you for the opportunity.

Addis Chamber:- May you introduce yourself?

Professor Melaku:- My name is Melaku Geboye Desta. I am a professor of International Economic Law at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. I have been working as a consultant with the Ethiopian government since 2004 when our country began its membership /

accession/ process of the World Trade Organization. For the past six years, I have been a senior consultant to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. I have been involved with the draft of the African Free Trade Area agreement since its inception. In connection with this, I have traveled extensively in many African countries.

Addis Chamber:- Can you talk to us about your family?

Professor Melaku:- I married when I was young. I am the father of three children. They all live in the UK. I am a very happy father.

Addis Chamber:- I heard that you have your fingerprints on the draft of the African Free Trade Agreement. What was the situation at the time?

Professor Melaku:- It is a good question. Experts from various African countries were instructed to prepare a draft document. At that time, I worked as a senior consultant for the African Economic Commission. I could not live here in Addis Ababa, so I went from South Africa to help

with this work, and I worked as a coordinator from Johannesburg and with other colleagues from different African countries. The first draft of the document was produced in Abuja, Ivory Coast. Later, the main work was done in Nairobi.

Addis Chamber:- What was the main responsibility of the team of experts?

Professor Melaku:- More than forty senior economists from different African countries have come together to discuss, debate, and present a draft document that we believe will benefit the continent. We drafted as an expert, after which the document will be presented to the negotiators by the African Union. In the end, the decision can only be negotiated by each country on its own advisory basis.

Addis Chamber:- Have you observed a significant change between the draft agreement and the finalized document?

Professor Melaku:- The difference is huge. Because we, as experts, are concerned that it will benefit the continent. Our job is to help. The



negotiators are responsible to decide. They will negotiate for the benefit of their respective country. Therefore the change in the finalized document is expected.

Addis Chamber:- what did you feel when the work was finalized and leaders signed the agreement in Kigali, 2018?

Professor Melaku:- I was very happy. When it was signed on March 21, 2018, in Kigali, 44 of the 55 member states signed it that day. I had the opportunity to watch this historical event. I still hear how the hall echoed when a minister went to sign on behalf of Ethiopia. This happened as Ethiopia is known for dragging its feet in trade agreements. Ethiopia is one of the four African countries in the League of Nations. Our Country was also a founding member of the International Monetary Fund. However, when it comes to trade, for example, when there is a general trade agreement, Ethiopia does not exist. Although we are in the process of becoming a member of the World Trade Organization, we are not yet a member of the organization. Our country has little participation in the sub-regional trade zone of Africa. But now, the Ethiopian government's involvement in the African Free Trade Area is commendable. The fact of the matter is that not only is it a signatory of the free trade zone, but Ethiopia has

also become a founding member of this trade agreement for the first time to its full potential. This is a big change.

Addis Chamber:- what is the main purpose of the agreement?

Professor Melaku:- The African Free Trade Area is the basis of Pan Africa's vision for a united, prosperous, peaceful Africa on Agenda 2063. One of its goals is to create a single market for goods and services that promote the free movement of people in Africa. In addition, it will promote investment between countries.

Addis Chamber:- As the teams of experts come from different parts of the continent, may you share with us any experiences?

Professor Melaku:- Based on growth African countries are divided into two. These are developed and least developed countries. In countries like Ethiopia, the law provides the better treatment. It could be, for example, capacity-building support. And one day when we talk about the benefits of least developed countries, one of my colleagues calls my name directly and said is it possible to think Ethiopia is among the least developed while it manages a big company like Ethiopian Airlines? I remember him asking.

The other memorable event was in relation to the Abuja agreement. In

February 1991, the Abuja Agreement was signed to establish an African Economic Community. The document is easy to read and appealing. But in practice, it failed. And while we were discussing the deal, a friend of ours from Nigeria was not very happy. He was a close friend and at that time it was a joke that my brother criticizing the Abuja agreement is not criticizing Abuja! What worries you so much? I remember laughing at each other.

Addis Chamber:- What good opportunities does the free trade zone have for Ethiopian business communities?

Professor Melaku:- The African Free Trade Area has many good opportunities. For example, Ethiopian traders or producers are able to move and trade their goods or services for free throughout Africa. There is a huge market opportunity. It also attracts investment.

Addis Chamber:- What are the challenges?

Professor Melaku:- Implementation and competition are the major challenges among others. Member countries are required to amend the local laws and practices that are inconsistent with the agreement.

Addis Chamber:- Do you have any recommendations?

Professor Melaku:- First of all, a series of awareness-raising forums should be organized for all parties involved in the free trade agreement. The government negotiates, not trades. The producer and the trader must work with the government to ease the pressure on trade.

Addis Chamber:- Thank you on behalf of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations for taking the time to share your experience.

Professor Melaku:- Thank you very much again.

THE AfCFTA IN ACTION

By Mulugeta Gudeta

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is theoretically often described as an economic game-changer for Africa. It is sometimes described as the biggest leap of faith Africa made in its history with its vision of unifying a divided continent with hundreds of ethnic, linguistic, economic, and political diversities.

All these qualifications are not imaginary. They are not only real but also challenging in a world where Africa is often seen as a latecomer in the race among both rich and poor countries for winning the biggest share of available resources.

The AfCFTA, when practically implemented, will no doubt be the single step that would end Africa's marginalization in the global economy as well as an effective instrument for realizing the dream of economic liberation first articulated 60 years ago and expected to become a reality some 50 years from now. The AfCFTA came into being only last January. This is a very short time span in view of the long-term objectives of the agreement that created potentially the largest trading bloc in the world with a combined population of 1.3 billion people and an aggregate volume of potential trade reaching some 3.4 trillion dollars.

The project is far from being a gamble because it has taken long years and concerted efforts, 50 years by some counts, to come to the conclusion that Africa's economic backwardness would only be addressed from its roots only if the AU member states come together and act in concert to remove the trade and development barriers that have kept them apart for more than 60 years after independence.

This may not, therefore, be an ambitious project given the realism that underlines its short and long-term projections and the urgent need to do away with the rampant poverty and

underdevelopment of the continent. Yet, it is a huge undertaking that will become a game-changer for Africa as a whole, with the potential to lift more than 30 million people out of poverty in its first phase.

The practical steps being taken to implement the continental free trade area in the last eleven or twelve months cannot be evaluated at this point in time due to the short period that has elapsed and the overwhelming challenges that the architects of this huge project were facing.

The devastating COVID-19 pandemic that is still hitting the continent hard must be the single most powerful event that continues to militate against it. The short-term prospects of the pandemic equally bleak look as the continent is entering its third wave with the rise of the new and more devastating variant of the virus.

It is also obvious that the AfCFTA is facing other challenges that emanate from within the continent or from member states. Writing on this issue, the Nigerian policy analyst George Boateng says that, *"It is also a fact that in order for the AfCFTA to thrive, the continent needs to address the existing annual infrastructure deficit—about USD\$108 billion according to the African Development Bank (2019)—to be able to drive free trade. Additionally, the continent would require billions of dollars to strengthen supply chains as well as fiscal and monetary policy in order to ensure that the benefits of the agreement are maximized. Primarily, there is the need to develop national strategies to guide the implementation of the AfCFTA."*

As many analysts put it, "The AfCFTA emphasizes the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and the facilitation of free movement of people and labor, right of residence, right of establishment, and investment."

The free movement of people, labor, and capital, technology beyond regional and national barriers requires, among other things, stability and peace in all areas of life. Short of this and



Creating One Africa Market

considering the records of the last few months, the free trade agreement is likely to wait and watch the unfolding economic and political processes across the continent.

The African Union (AU) is certainly behind this project but it could neither predict unwarranted challenges could crop up in such a short time nor steer into action the mechanisms for preventing the destabilizing factors that could further complicate Africa's planned economic integration.

Dealing with such unpredictable challenges, George Boateng in a recent article wrote that, "African countries must be willing to have open borders. Coincidentally, developments such as Nigeria's August 2020 closing of its borders with Benin and Ghana may cripple the AfCFTA's effectiveness, especially when all the involved countries are signatories to AfCFTA.

"In the perspective of the great pan-Africanist, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, *"It is clear that we must get an African solution to Africa's problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided, we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world."*

The AfCFTA is no doubt a great unifier of Africa in the economic sense of the term. In the final analysis, economic integration or economic unity are the bases and prerequisites for lasting political integration. Africa started the strategy of regional integration back in the 1960s and 1970s. Yet, its economy did not change radically, because the same problems that are agitating the continent now were also frustrating the initial bid for economic integration.

Africa needs to learn from its past in order to successfully navigate towards a promising future. European economic integration too faced formidable challenges in its times although the countries were economically far more advanced than are African countries at this stage. They succeeded not because they were more talented than Africans. They succeeded because they acted decisively.

Commenting on how AfCFTA is being received within Africa, another African analyst and trade lawyer wrote that, *"To be sure, the AfCFTA is potentially a game-changer, as it could trigger far-reaching domestic policy and institutional reforms and become a credible forerunner of a single market and a customs union for Africa. However, so far, there is little evidence of the political will to make that happen; given how slowly and how cautiously African leaders and policymakers are moving towards economic integration. Yet Africa's economic future lies in a single market and greater integration into the world. But, first, Africa must make AfCFTA work."*

In the final analysis, the AfCFTA is a flagship project of the AU's Agenda 2063 and a blueprint for attaining inclusive and sustainable development across the continent over the next 50 years. It aims to boost intra-African trade by providing a comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement among the member states, covering trade in goods and services,

investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy.

In this sense, we can say that the AfCFTA is more important than the World Trade Organization (WTO) both in its reach and significance. As far as African economic interests are concerned, the AfCFTA is the best agreement that can promote Africa's dream of rising up from poverty. Whereas the WTO deals only with trade disputes among member states, the AfCFTA shapes the lives and destinies of more than one billion or one in seven people on planet earth.

Anyway, such a historic project as the creation of an integrated and continent-wide economic union cannot be reversed despite the unpredictable challenges that might have slowed the pace of its implementation. The secretariat of AfCFTA entrusted with the practical implementation of the grand project is no doubt actively pursuing the dream which is the dream of all Africans.



AfCFTA: The Road to Single Market



By Ashenafi Mitiku

The African Continental Free Trade Area is also known as (AfCFTA) agreement is a landmark incident ever signed among Africans. According to development researchers and economists, the new trade deal is expected to boost intra-African trade, promote industrialization, create jobs, and improve the competitiveness of African industries on the global stage as well as continental level.

A recent report from World Bank reveals that, Africa accounts for just 3% of global trade. And only 15% of African exports are intra-continental, compared with 60% for Asia and 68% for Europe. The potential for transformation across Africa is therefore significant. The pact will create the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating.

“To envision the Africa we want to see, we need to be united for the common goal. The AfCFTA is also part of the 2063 Pan African Agenda that intends to create a single economic community in Africa” says senior trade and industry advisor at the African Union. The senior advisor also said that the AfCFTA will enable Africa to compete globally that also paves the way for a stronger continent, adds the senior advisor.

The renowned economist Alemayehu Geda (Professor) speculated the potential challenges and opportunities associated with AfCFTA. In his briefing to Addis Chamber, Professor Alemayehu further notes that the willingness and initiative of African states witnessed towards embracing

AfCFTA is commendable particularly in forging strong regional ties that can facilitate trade smooth flow of trade.

The Trade deal as Alemayehu anticipates, favors the manufacturing sector better off as compared to other business sectors. In his research findings, the manufacturing sector covers 40% of the trade deal and the other 60 percent for other economic activities and the remaining unfished goods and service trading. The young and trainable youth population in Ethiopia, according to Professor Alemayehu, can also be a viable asset or comparative advantage to compete in the continental trade.

Despite all the opportunities existed in Ethiopia, the new trade deal will also have its own challenge that emanates from strong economies such as Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa, thus calling all private sectors of Ethiopia to be ready for the new initiative.

Musie Mindaye, who is the Director of trade relations and negotiation at the ministry of trade and Regional Integration made interview for this special edition regarding the commitment of his government and its readiness to support the private sector in Ethiopia.

While briefing about the current status of intra Africa trade, he highlighted the unwavering support of his government to private sectors operating in Ethiopia. Muse also expressed his optimism on the new trade deal in bringing massive trade opportunities for private sector to strive adding that previous trading bottlenecks observed in international trade to dwindle in intra Africa. Many African countries including Ethiopia suffers from non-transparent trade deals with the outside world that results in discouraging import and export businesses in the continent.

“We should be ready to tap all the opportunities available in AfCFTA”, notes Musie.

Despite all the opportunities available and presented in AfCFTA, there are also drawbacks in carrying out the new trade deals, says Musie Mindaye. One such challenge is the provision of logistics which is minimal as compared to other countries of the world such as Asia and Europe. Other challenges include the availability of finance or forex money to be circulated in the economy while undertaking the trade deal must be addressed, urges Musie while briefing journalists of the Addis Chamber.

Sources from Ethiopian Leather Institute indicate that the sector earns 250 million USD per year for Ethiopia and creates numerous jobs for local citizens. Daniel Getachew, secretary general from the Ethiopian leather industries Association mentioned the competitive advantage of the Ethiopian leather sector and the existing potential of leather for leather investment. “Small and micro enterprises are engaged in the production of leather goods and a number of these enterprises are vertically integrated with tanneries” adds Daniel Getachew.

As the saying goes, if there is a will there is a way. The government of Ethiopia should provide the necessary support to Ethiopian private sector to be competitive either in intra Africa trade or internationally. The growth experiences of South Korea show how essential the integration of government and private sector in realizing a vibrant economy and competitive private sector.

FREE TRADE AREA FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES,

Opportunities and Challenges



By Birhanu Belachew

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement has been a historic event for African States & Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME's). Statistics show that 90% of businesses worldwide are run by SME's. They have the potential to create more than 80% of Africans' employment and 50% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to a 2019 World Bank report, 415 million people across Africa are living in extreme poverty. That figure accounts for 57 percent of the world's poverty.

The World Bank predicts that poverty reduction will be 10.9 percent for the poorest Africans by 2035. When the continental free trade area is fully operational, it is expected to lift an additional 30 million people out of extreme poverty.

According to Getachew Melaku, Adviser to the Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) of the continent have a significant role to play in creating jobs. However, he emphasized the need to focus on sustainable development in Africa.



He cited the Ethio-Djibouti corridor in the region as an example. The corridor is a major source of revenue for the region. Corridor development not only creates jobs for small and medium enterprises but also ensures sustainability. He said there are hundreds of cars being driven around the corridor every day. He noted that SMEs would have an opportunity to provide services to the cars.

It is estimated that women make up 70 percent of Africa's informal cross-border traffickers. Women who have engaged in this activity are vulnerable to abuse, confiscation, and imprisonment. By lowering the tariffs on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it could allow traders in the informal sector to enter the formal sector, which provides better protection.

According to Getachew, small and medium enterprises have a significant role to play in creating jobs, especially for women. Studies show that women-led small and medium enterprises create more jobs than men.

The current 6.1 percent tariff has made it difficult for African traders to make trade on the continent. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will gradually eliminate tariffs on African trade. This will enable African traders to streamline their trade on the continent, especially small and medium enterprises.

However, SME's also face challenges. Studies have identified four basic problems.

- Lack of Access to finance,
- Challenges related with work premises ,
- Lack of market access, and
- Lacks of professionalism are among others.

Getachew said small and medium enterprises should be ready to increase their benefits in the region by solving these problems. They must be prepared to provide the most up-to-date product and service. The government is also expected to strengthen the capacity of small and medium enterprises, strengthen institutions, and strengthen access to credit.

HARNESSING CROSS-BORDER TRADING FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION



By Mulugeta Gudeta

It is not possible to obtain clear data on cross-border trading swinging on either side of borders between Ethiopia and its immediate neighbors. Yet, some estimates put the aggregate annual value of trade among the nations of the region at hundreds of millions of dollars.

Contraband trade that crosses borders in all possible frontiers goes unrecorded and this is of course a big and common loss for countries. Unfortunately, benefits from formal trading are being heavily impacted by illegal cross border trading networks. Particularly, trading between Ethiopia and Somalia is still facing the illegal flow of goods to and from both directions. Illegal cross-border trade is depriving Ethiopia

precious tax revenues that could otherwise be used for investment. This will remain a cardinal challenge for Ethiopia working to promote normal trade and economic integration.

What is geopolitically known as the Horn of Africa is a vast area with a combined population of more than 200 million people. The region is geographically very diverse ranging from high mountains to the lowest depressions around the Red Sea area, deserts, lush plains, big and small rivers, mineral riches etc.

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia share common borders stretching to thousands of kilometers, except for Ethiopia, borders are demarcated by

the then colonial powers. The people in the region have similar culture, religion and history.

Unfortunately, colonialism had not only divided and ruled these countries in the past, but also left behind a legacy of artificial territorial and political divisions, although there had been repeated calls for continental and regional economic and political integration of African countries. This far-sighted vision had repeatedly failed to materialize. Researchers suggest that unprecedented conflicts in border areas of countries in question.

Most of the borders of these countries are porous, giving rise to both positive and negative developments.

It is true that, open borders facilitated interactions among traders along side borders. However, open border system encourages contraband trade that undermines formal trading. The nature of borders is also responsible for the proliferation of illegal migrations, criminal activities and even terrorist operations that cost dearly the economies of these countries.

There were also normal trade activities along the borders of these countries. Traders crossed rivers and deserts in order to bring badly needed goods to neighboring countries. The fact that some of these countries are linked with roads and railways that have facilitated their transition from traditional to modern transactions.

The railway line between Ethiopia and Djibouti is one example. Almost all of these countries, with except Ethiopia have open sea access that are the main gateways for international trading with the rest of the world.

Ethiopia and Djibouti again set a good example of cross border trading as well as international trade linkage. Djibouti is now a vital outlet to the sea for Ethiopia and its main foreign trade artery through which goods and services are exported or imported via the port of Djibouti, the country largely depends

Recent developments in the region are bringing up new opportunities for cross border trading among those countries. The rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia is creating unprecedented opportunities for traders from both countries to conduct exchange of goods. This is particularly attractive to the citizens of both countries living

in the border areas. The advent of peace between the two countries is expected to boost further the available opportunities for cross border bilateral trade.

The Eritrean-Ethiopian rapprochement is also providing Ethiopia with another port outlet relieving the pressure over Djibouti port and alleviating Ethiopia's one-sided dependency on one port for its expanding economy. Both Eritrea and Ethiopia need one another in terms of economic interdependence. Eritrea needs Ethiopia's large market for its goods and Ethiopia needs Eritrea's ports for export of its goods to the global market at a reduced cost.

When relation between Eritrea and Djibouti return to normal levels as they were in the past, the management of the ports in both countries might be regulated in such a way as to serve Ethiopia's trade interests in a fair manner and on the basis of a win-win solution. The same can be said about cross border trade between Somalia and Djibouti. Both countries share a long border between them yet the issue of Somaliland's aspiration of independent statehood that has not yet gained regional or international approval might be a hurdle towards normalization of relations between Djibouti and Somalia.

Cross-border trade between Ethiopia and Somalia is also another issue that is temporarily frustrated by the absence of peace and terrorist operations in Somalia making it difficult to conduct normal trade relations and give rise to criminality such as contraband trade that hurt the economies of the two countries.

Sooner or later, peace will come to Somalia and the potentials for cross border trade will be exploited by tow sides. Transnational highways and railways are bound to emerge in the long run because Somalia has an outlet to the Indian Ocean and can also serve as another port for Ethiopia's exports.

The process of strong cross-border trade relations among these countries will be faster than in the past because modern communication technologies, such as internet are bound to facilitate trading between the two sides. These countries are also endowed with young population supposed to accelerate integration process. The exchange of market information is important expediting cross border trading.

Once the politics of the region is normalized and durable peace is achieved across the region, and countries put in place a common trading policy regime. The immense resources of the countries under discussion will certainly become the driving forces for regional economic growth.

The vision of a fast growing region where people are free from poverty and insecurity. However, it should be noted that a stable cross border trading cannot be achieved by an individual state, even by two or three. One of the peculiar features of border trading is that all adjoining state must work collectively and sort out common challenges happening in the course of conducting commerce among them.



REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT AND ITS ECONOMIC BENEFITS, AfcFTA

By Denekew Aman

Regional trade if exploited well has a great potential in its contribution to sustained growth, poverty reduction and inclusive development. This can be witnessed by the effective roles it plays in several countries of Asia and Latin America.

The contribution of regional trade and expected results in Africa, however, have been slow to come to the fore. Of the many factors that account for this situation are, the weakness of relevant institutions, lack of commitment, leadership, expertise, infrastructure and the absence of robust private sector.

It's obvious that no sustainable development could take place without participation of developing countries to international trade and without appropriate growth of their economies.

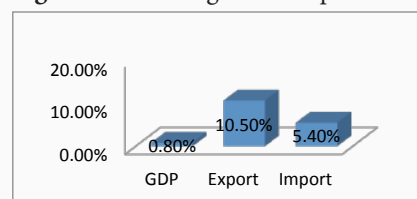
The policy organs of AU have identified 12 flagship projects to be given priority in the execution Agenda 2063 with the Motto "Africa We Want". Among those projects, the Creation of the Continental Free Trade Area is currently a big deal within Africa, in which AfcFTA is an ambitious undertaking that aims to eventually bring together 55 Africa countries with a combination of a billion people to create the world's second-largest free trade area.

AfcFTA has a main objective of creating an integrated market for the trade in goods and services, as well as the free movement of people and capital.

Following series of negotiations, adoption, signature, ratification, entry into force, efforts operationalization of AfcFTA was in good shape by almost all African countries until the period of COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, new implementation measures are now progressing by many African countries.

In spite of degree of variation, there is little doubt on the immense contribution that AfcFTA will bring to the economies of Africa including Ethiopia. The research made by ECA using CGE modelling shows the economic impacts and trade performance on Africa from AfcFTA. In particular, the research result shows a significant positive changes in Africa's GDP, Export and import performance compared to the baseline in 2045 (i.e. without AfcFTA implementation), which is the most realistic scenario. The research also witnessed the expected increase in Ethiopia's GDP, export, and import in greater proportions than Africa's average by 2045. What's more in the study is more increase seen in Ethiopia's exports than import. However, overall trade variations are not so impressive as compared to baseline (i.e. without AfcFTA)

Figure 1: The change in Ethiopian GDP,



Source: ECA, research work paper, 2021.

Export and Import as compared to the baseline to 2045.

According to the above figure, Ethiopian GDP, export, and import will increase by 0.8%, 5.1%, and 5.4% respectively in 2045. Besides, the agriculture, energy/ mining, industry, and services sectors in Ethiopia will considerably benefit from the AfcFTA in terms of exports to and imports from the rest of Africa.

At present, Ethiopia's trade with Africa is largely based on major exports of agrifood such as vegetables, fruit, nuts and livestock and some imports of processed food. With AfcFTA, Agrifood is also expected to dominate in Ethiopia's trade with Africa, and the share of industry will become considerable as well.

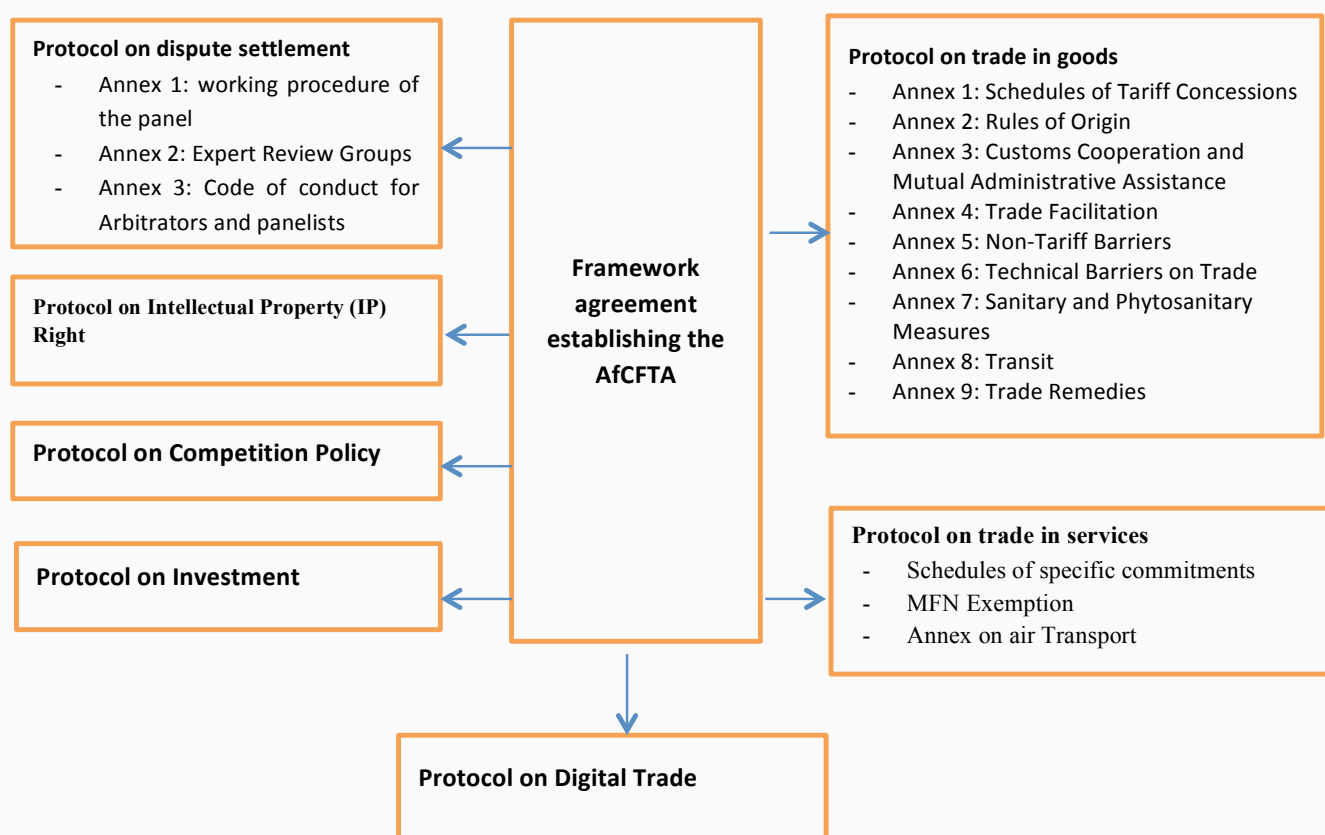
According to World Bank Group and the World Trade Organization¹ (2015), a dramatic increase in developing country participation in trade has coincided with an equally sharp decline in extreme poverty worldwide. Trade has helped increase the number and quality of jobs in developing countries, stimulated economic growth, and driven productivity increases. Moreover, ECA unpublished report (2021), based on the results of CGE model using Ethiopia's 2018 survey on sample of 6,770 households and 29,503 individuals covering the entire country shows significant reduction of poverty with AfcFTA in place than with out it.

¹<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/726971467989468997/pdf/97607-REPLACEMENT-The-Role-of-Trade-in-Ending-Poverty.pdf>

Now the African states have reached an agreement on schedules of the tariff. Accordingly, about 90% of tariff line should be progressively eliminated on non-sensitive goods. To this end, Non-Least Developed Countries are expected to liberalise tariffs of these goods over 5 years whereas Least Developed Countries (LDCs) over 10 years. About 7% of tariff lines for sensitive goods is to be liberalized by Non-Least Developed Countries over 10 years and by LDCs over 13 years. The remaining 3% of tariff lines for sensitive goods (which actually do not exceed 10% of total intra-Africa imports) are excluded from liberalization.

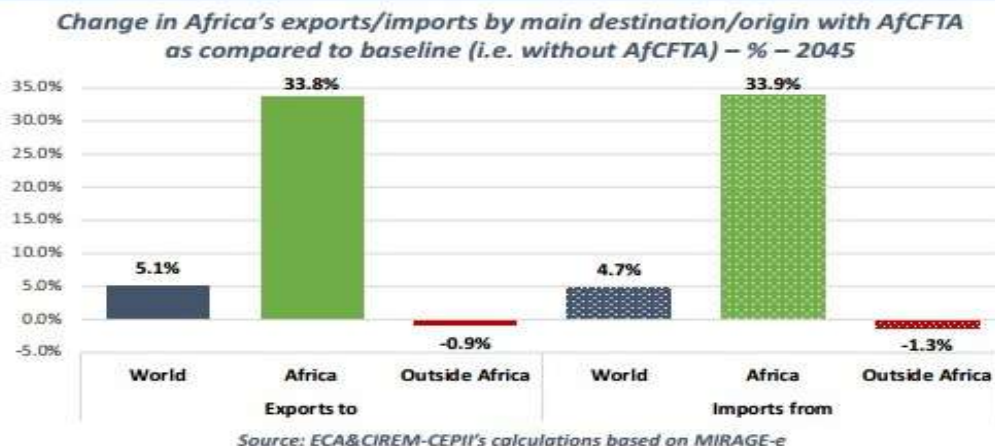
In a nut shell, Ethiopia has great potentials in seizing substantial benefit from the coming regional trade agreement (i.e. AfCFTA), provided that it gives timely emphasis to institution development (for implementation, (for implementation, administration, facilitation, and monitoring and evaluation), ensuring political stability, and also create full awareness about the following protocols within the public, private and other stakeholders. Those protocols which are important and require immediate action by the government are summarized in the following table.

AfCFTA AGREEMENT ARCHITECTURE WHICH ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL FOR THE NEGOTIATION



²Based on the review of English and Amharic version of the document of agreement establishing the African continental free trade area

AfCFTA: Zoom on Africa's Exports & Imports



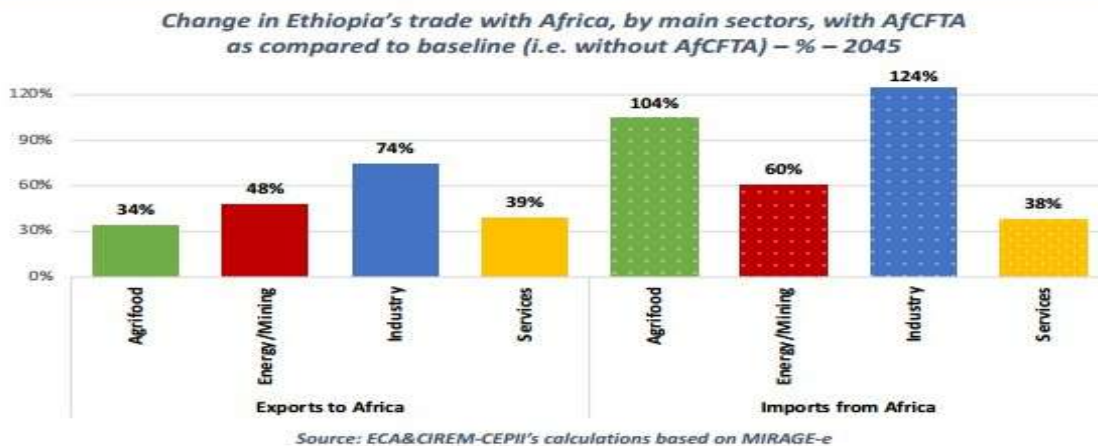
- Relatively moderate increases in Africa global exports/imports hide disparities across destination/origin;
- Gains from AfCFTA mainly concentrated in intra-African trade;
- AfCFTA to help somewhat reducing Africa's current trade dependence with RoW (today, about 85% of Africa's trade is with RoW).



AfCFTA: Zoom on Ethiopia's Exports & Imports

Change in Ethiopia's exports/imports by main destination/origin with AfCFTA as compared to baseline (i.e. without AfCFTA) – % – 2045

AfCFTA: Focus on Ethiopia's trade with Africa



- All sectors in Ethiopia will considerably benefit from the AfCFTA in terms of exports to/imports from the rest of Africa;

TRADE INFORMATION ON FREE TRADE AREA: Compiled By Seyoum Chane

AfCFTA Related

Economic and Distributional Effects (2020) Report :

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34139/9781464815591.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>

Ethiopia's Participation in RTA

<http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicSearchByMemberResult.aspx?MemberCode=231&l ang=1&redirect=1>

UNECA, Takeaways from the Expected Impact of AfCFTA's Implementation (2021)

https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/keymessageanddocuments/en_afc_fta-infographics-11.pdf

Internal and External Challenges facing the AfCFTA

Agreement, by Prof. Melaku Geboye Desta

<https://www.afronomicslaw.org/2019/03/14/safeguarding-the-africancontinental-free-trade->

About OAU Charter

https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/7759-file-oau_charter_1963.pdf

The Continental Online Tool/Mechanism for monitoring, reporting and elimination of Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs):

<https://afcfta.au.int/en/continental-online-toolmechanism-monitoring-reporting-and-elimination-non-tariff-barriers-ntbs>
<https://tradebarriers.africa/>

World Customs Organization

www.wcoomd.org
www.wcotradetools.org/en

On Empirical Assessments made on AfCFTA

<https://www.uneca.org/publications/empirical-assessment-african-continental-free-trade-area-modalities-goods-for-greater-details>

General Trade

Light Years IP. 2011. "Ethiopian Fine Coffee: Trademarking & Licensing Initiative."

<http://www.lightyearsip.net/projects/ethiopiancoffee/>

Import and export data – multiple years - Ethiopia

<http://www.erca.gov.et/index.php/import-export-information>

Agricultural survey - Ethiopia

<http://www.csa.gov.et/>

Case information:

<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/94795e84-08d6-4bf6-82b1-c9a9bfcfbcc4/language-en>

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ICT Facts and Figures 2017." Geneva: ITU. Available at: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/ICTFactsFigures2017.pdf>.

Employment

<http://reports.weforum.org/future-of-jobs-2016/future-workforce-strategy/>.

Trade and Market Access to Specific Products

FAO Statistical database

<http://www.fao.org/statistics/en/>

International trade center – trade database – import and export data

<http://www.trademap.org/Index.aspx>

Import and export data – multiple years - Ethiopia

<http://www.erca.gov.et/index.php/import-export-information>

Agricultural survey - Ethiopia

<http://www.csa.gov.et/>

International Trade Statistics

<http://www.trademap.org-needs-registration>

The European Union Vegetable Oil and Protein meal Industry

<http://www.fediol.eu/>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

<http://faostat3.fao.org/home/E>

CBI market information: Promising EU export markets. EU

Expanding Exports Helpdesk

<http://exporthelp.europa.eu> - go to 'trade statistics'. Eurostat - <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/newxtweb> - statistical database of the EU.

Organizations

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

<http://www.mofed.gov.et/English/Pages/Home.aspx>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

www.uneca.org

European Commission

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2014/october/tradoc_152818.pdf.

International Trade Statistics

<http://www.trademap.org-needs-registration>

United States Department of Agriculture

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

<http://faostat3.fao.org/home/E>

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