



MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
COOPERATIVES



Supporting the development of Uganda's 2nd *National Strategy for Private Sector Development (2020/21 - 2024/25)* through economic research

Session III: Trade agreements for private sector development

Date: 31st of March 2021; 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Zoom link for registration: <https://cutt.ly/mxrUGKe>

Time	Session	Speakers
3.00 – 3.05 pm	Opening remarks by the chair	Moses Kaggwa, Director Economic Affairs, MoFPED
3.05 – 3.10 pm	Remarks by the Country Director of the <i>International Growth Centre</i>	Dr. Richard Newfarmer, IGC
3.10 to 3.45 pm: Presentations and expert response		
3.10 – 3.25 pm	<i>The EAC Common External Tariff and Uganda's trade policy</i>	Jakob Rauschendorfer, IGC
3.25 – 3.40 pm	<i>The African Continental Free Trade Area: Opportunities for Ugandan exports</i>	Prof. Lawrence Edwards, University of Cape Town
3.40 – 3.45 pm	<i>Expert response</i>	Allen Asimwe, Chief Technical Officer, <i>TradeMark East Africa</i>
3.45 – 4.30 pm: Panel discussion and summary		
3.45 – 4.20 pm	Panel discussion and Q&A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emmanuel Mutahunga, Commissioner for External Trade, <i>Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives</i>. - Moses Ogwapus, Ag. Commissioner Financial Services Department, <i>Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development</i>. - Stephen Asimwe, Director Policy and Business Development, <i>Private Sector Foundation Uganda</i>. - Daniel Birungi, Executive Director, <i>Uganda Manufacturers Association</i>. - Abel Kagumire, Commissioner for Customs, <i>Uganda Revenue Authority</i>. 	Moderator: Dr. Peter Ngategize, Private Sector Development Unit, MoFPED
4.20 – 4.25 pm	Summary of recommendations: Trade and private sector development	Godfrey Walakira, Principal Commercial Officer, MTIC and Dr. John Oryema, Private Sector Development, MoFPED
4.25 – 4.30 pm	Closing remarks	Grace Choda, Ag. Permanent Secretary, MTIC

Abstracts of papers to be presented

Jakob Rauschendorfer (2021) *The EAC Common External Tariff and Uganda's trade policy.*

Abstract: The Common External Tariff (CET) of the East African Community (EAC) customs union has long been considered the cornerstone of one of the more successful examples of regional integration in Sub-Saharan Africa. This project assesses the integrity of the CET using a novel dataset of country- and firm-level deviations from the common tariff regime created by digitizing information published in the gazettes of the EAC secretariat between 2009 and 2019 (presented in Rauschendorfer and Twum 2021). Using these data, the paper shows that the Common External Tariff has become increasingly less "Common" emphasizing the need for a comprehensive review. The project then proceeds with a brief evaluation of the effect of tariff changes through Stays of Applications on Uganda's imports and exports.

Lawrence Edwards (2021) *The African Continental Free Trade Area: Opportunities for Ugandan exports.*

Abstract: African economies, including Uganda, are embarking on an ambitious program of regional integration in the form of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The implementation of this agreement is imminent: countries that have deposited the ratification of the AfCFTA with the African Union are set to commence Phase I reductions of their tariffs from January 2021. The objective of this study is to explore the implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area for Uganda using an approach that accounts for the heterogeneity of the impact across products and firms. A particular focus will be on opportunities to enhance Uganda exports. The objective is to draw policy recommendations from the analysis to assist Uganda in enhancing the benefit of the AfCFTA for the country. Specifically, we aim to focus on the anticipated reduction in tariffs between Uganda, South Africa and markets in west Africa. The project not only aims to provide insights into an imminent policy change due to take place in the first quarter of 2021, but to also develop an adaptable framework to assist Uganda in considering the implications of the broader implementation of the AfCFTA with additional trading partners as the implementation of the AfCFTA proceeds.