



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

## 2024 Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE)

UN Economic Commission for Africa - Central and Eastern Africa



**Fastforward of research and innovation solutions  
to fasttrack economic diversification in Central  
and Eastern Africa**

Hilton Hôtel - Yaoundé, Cameroon  
October 15-18, 2024

**WORK PROGRAMME**

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#ICSOE2024

## Day1: Tuesday 15 October 2024

08:00 – 09:00 Registration of participants

09:00 – 10:00 Opening ceremony

### Opening remarks

- **Mr. Luc Messi**, Yaoundé City Mayor
- Outgoing Chair of the Eastern Africa Office
- Outgoing Chair of the Central Africa Bureau
- **H.E. Issa Sanogo**, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Cameroon
- **H.E. Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Chief Economist, UNECA
- **H.E. Alamine Ousmane Mey**, Minister of Economy, Planning and Land Management (MINEPAT), Cameroon

### Keynote speech

- **H.E. Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute**, Prime Minister, Head of Government of the Republic of Cameroon

10:00 – 10:20 Appointment of officers, review and adoption of the agenda

### Chair: Cameroon

During this session, the 2 new ICISOE bureau will be set up. The new officers will guide the participants in examining and adopting the agenda.

10:20 – 10:45 Coffee break - Group photo

10:45 – 1:00pm Session 1: Macroeconomic and social overview

Chair ECA-CA Office: H.E. Alamine Ousmane Mey, Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), Cameroon

10:45 – 11:05 Presentation: Macroeconomic and Social Panorama of Central and Eastern Africa. **Dr Andrew Mold**, **Ms. Laura Ngomegni**, **Mr. Malick Mamadou Bal**, UNECA Subregional Offices Eastern and Central Africa.

11:05 – 11:45 Interventions

- **Ms. Francine INARUKUNDO**, Permanent Secretary for Finance, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning. Burundi
- **Ms. Kadra Ahmed SAID**, Deputy Director of Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting, Economy and Planning Department (MEFI), Djibouti II
- **Mr. Adrian Raphael Njau**, Ag. Executive Director, Eastern African Business Council (EABC)
- **Prof. Désire Avon**, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Yaoundé II

11:45 – 12:50 Plenary discussions

12:50 – 1:00 Launch of the report “Successful import-substitution in Central Africa by embracing quality: a crucial issue for food and nutritional security”. **H.E. Dr. Hanan Morsy** and **H.E. Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute**, Prime Minister, Head of Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

1:00 – 2:00	Lunch break
2:00 – 5:30pm	<b>Session 2: High-level dialogue on research and innovation to accelerate economic diversification in Central and Eastern Africa</b>

**Chair: ICSOE Central Africa Bureau**

**Moderator: Dr Jean-Luc Mastaki**, Director, Subregional office for Central Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

**2:30 – 2:45** Presentation of the working paper on research and innovation to accelerate economic diversification in Central and East Africa. Dr. **Christian Otchia** and Dr. **Mafini Dosso**, International consultants UNECA.

**2:45 – 3:15**

**Panel discussion**

- **Dr. Raymond Tavares**, Resident Representative of UNIDO, Cameroon
- **H.E. Kongbele-Zingas**, Minister for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, Central African Rep.
- **H.E. Guibolo Fanga Mathieu**, Minister of Industry and Trade, Chad
- **Mr. Charles Kahuthu**, Regional Coordinator, East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA)
- **Mr. Denis Bohoussou**, Managing Director, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Cameroon
- **Mr. Paul Coustère**, Regional Director and UNESCO Representative, Cameroon

3:15 – 3:30	Coffee break
<b>Session 2 : Continued</b>	

**3:30 – 4:00**

**Panel Discussion**

- **Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo**, Ag. Director, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission
- **Dr. Jean Louis Doukaga**, Director General of the Regional Centre for Applied Research in the Development of Agricultural systems in Central Africa (PRASAC), EMCCA
- **Prof. Isaac Tamba**, Director General of the Economy and Public Investment Programming, Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), Cameroon
- **Mr. Yves Gahonzire**, Business Development Manager, Irempo Kigali, Rwanda
- **Prof. Mbacham Wilfried**, President Fobang Institute of science, technology and innovation, Cameroon

**4:00 – 5:30**

Plenary discussion

5:30pm	<b>End of day 1</b>
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## Day 2 Wednesday 16 October 2024

**08:30 – 10:30am**      **Session 3:** Status of effective implementation of the AfCFTA in Central and East Africa - lessons from the past for the future

**Chair:** ICSOE Eastern Africa Bureau

**Modrtator:** **Dr Andrew Mold**, Officer-in-Charge of Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, UNECA

**08:30 – 08:45**      Presentation: “Overview of the state of implementation of the AfCFTA”  
Dr Andrew Mold

**08:45 – 09:45**      Panel discussion

- **Dr Francis Mangeni**, Representative of the Secretary General, AfCFTA Secretariat, Ghana.
- **Dr Melaku Desta**, Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Center (ATPC), UNECA, Ethiopia
- **Dr Eng. John Deng Diar DIING**, Executive Secretary, Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (TTCA), East Africa
- **Ms. Treasure Maphanga**, Director of Operations, AeTrade Group, Special Economic Zone Phase 2, Rwanda
- **Mr. Celestin Tamba**, Managing Director, GICAM, Cameroon
- **Mr. Eppoh Parfait**, Chief Negotiator, AfCFTA Cameroon

**09:45 – 10:45**      Plenary discussion

**10:45 – 11:00**      Coffee break

**11:00 – 1:00pm**      **Session 4: Private sector and youth perspectives on the AfCFTA**  
- What are the priorities?

**Chair:** ICSOE Eastern Africa Bureau

**Moderator:** **Mr. Steven Asimwe**, Managing Director, Private Sector Foundation, Uganda

**11:00- 11:30**      Private Sector Representatives

- **Ms. Claudia Lina Asimwe**, Program Manager, The Eastern African Sub Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), Uganda
- **Mr. Pierre Quatre**, **Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)**
- **Mr. Kennedy Kenyi Lodiong**, General Secretary, South Sudan Manufacturers Association (SSMA)
- **Mr. John Bosco Kalisa**, Executive Chairman, East Africa Business and Investment Advisory Council
- **Mr. Archile Tomi Noutchieu**, CEO & Founder, Wood innovation, Cameroon

**11:30 – 12:00**      Plenary discussion

**12:00 – 12:30**      Youth representatives

- **Ms. Céline Ngenzebuhoro**, Youth Leadership and Empowerment Initiative (YELI-BURUNDI)

- **Mr. Johnson Mwirigi Rithaa**, Head of Research and Policy and Head of Registration and Coordination National Youth Council, Kenya
- **Mr. Hussein Madey Mohamed**, Executive Director, Ude Somali Young Volunteers Association (SOYVA)
- **Ms. Ukri Abdillahi Mohamed**, CEO of ISCAE Co-founder and Honorary President of CJED, Founder and President of the Djibouti Businesswomen's Association

12:30 – 1:00 Plenary discussion

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch break

2:00 – 5:30pm Session 5: Innovations for a Climate-Resilient Blue Economy Transition

Chair: ICSOE Eastern Africa Bureau

Moderator: **Daya Bragante**, Head of Section for Corporate Policy and Planning (CPPS) in the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division (SPORD), UNECA

2:00 – 2:15 Presentation of recommendations from the virtual expert group meeting on the theme “**Innovations for a Climate-Resilient Blue Economy Transition in Central and Eastern Africa**” held on 2 October 2024. **Dr. Honita Cowaloosur**, Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-EA, UNECA

2:15 – 3:00 Panel discussion

- **Mr. John Gounes Tougoulou**, Mr. John Gounes Tougoulou, Service Inspector, Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, Cameroon
- **Dr. Martin Ndende**, Director, Center for Maritime and Oceanic Rights, University of Nantes
- **Dr. Shamimtaz Sadally**, Senior Programme Officer for Blue Economy and Fisheries Management, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- **Mr. Victor Sima Asong**, Economist, United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, Equatorial Guinea
- **Dr. Bernice McLean**, Head of Blue Economy Programme, AUDA-NEPAD,

3:00 – 3:30 Plenary discussion

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee break

4:00 – 5:00 **CIE EXPO 2024-2025:** Sharing knowledge and experience on regional and national innovation platforms.

5:00pm End of day 2



## Day 3 Thursday 17 October 2024

**09:00 – 1:00pm**      **Session 6: High-level dialogue on strategic partnerships to leverage natural capital and finance industrialization and economic diversification**

**Chair:** ICSOE Central Africa Bureau

**Moderators:** **Mr. Fidèle Magouangou**, Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Public Accounts of Gabon and **Mr. Chouaibou Nchoutpouen**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Technical Coordinator, COMIFAC.

**09:00 – 09:30**      Presentation: “Strategic partnerships and innovations for the establishment of a consortium and a carbon credit market to enhance the value of the Congo Basin's natural capital”. **Dr Adama Ekberg Coulibaly**, Chief Subregional Initiatives, UNECA

**09:30 – 10:45**      Questions and answers

**10:45 – 11:00**      **Coffee break**

**11:00 – 11:45**      **Panel discussion with experts from the Consortium project**

- **H.E. Daniel Ngassiki**, Economist, financier and banker, author of the book “Economy at the Canon of the inclusive infinite”, Cameroon
- **Ms. Nelly Chatue Diop**, CEO, Ejara Investments Group, Cameroon
- **Prof. Ambassa Leonard**, Chartered Accountant, Order of Chartered Accountants, Cameroon
- **Mr. Mawanda Hamba Heritier**, Expert, Blockchain technologies and exchange platforms, Congo (RDC)
- **Dr. Louis Lubango**, Expert in issues related to the development of carbon credit markets, Ethiopia

**11:45 – 12:40**      Plenary discussion

**12:40 – 1:00**      **Expressions of interest and support for the operationalization of the Consortium.**

**1:00 -2:00**      **Lunch break**

2:00-5:30pm	<b>Session 7: Presentation of annual activity reports from Central and East Africa Subregional Offices</b>
	<b>Chair:</b> ICSOE Eastern Africa Bureau
2:00 -2:15	Presentation of the activity report and recent initiatives of the Central Africa Subregional Office, <b>Dr Sandrine Koissy-Kpein</b> , Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-CA, UNECA
2:15 -2:30	Presentation of the East Africa Sub-Regional Office's Activity Report and recent initiatives, Ms. <b>Emelang Leteane</b> , Head (Ag.) of the Cluster on Sub-Regional initiatives, SRO-EA, UNECA
2:30 -3:30	Plenary discussion
3:30- 3:45	<b>Coffee break</b>
3:45-4:00	Presentation of recommendations from the October 2, 2024 webinar on “Artificial intelligence in Africa: challenges and opportunities to be met”. <b>Mr. Giuseppe D’Aronco</b> , Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-CA, UNECA
4:00- 4:30	Plenary discussion
4:30 -4:45	Presentation on initiatives, recent events, risks and prospects for ECA interventions in Central and East Africa and financing challenges. <b>Dr Said Adejumobi</b> , Director of Strategic Planning, Oversight, and Results, UNECA
4:45- 5:30	Plenary discussion
5:30pm	<b>End of day 3</b>

**Day 4: Friday 18 October 2024**

<b>08:30-12:30</b>	<b>Session 8 – Closure of work</b>
	<u>Chair:</u> ICSOE Central Africa Bureau
08:30- 08:45	Presentation. Theme, date and venue of the next ICSOE.
09:45- 10:00	Questions and answers
10:00- 10:15	Conference evaluation
<b>11:00 -11:30</b>	<b>Coffee break – Group photo</b>
<b>12:00 -12:30</b>	<b>Closing remarks of the 3rd Joint Session of the ICSOE - 2024</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Issa Sanogo, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Cameroon</li> <li>• New Chair of the Subregional Office for Central Africa /New Chair of the Sub-Regional Office for East Africa</li> <li>• Representative of the Subregional Office for Central Africa/ Representative of the Subregional Office for East Africa</li> <li>• Representative of the Government of Cameroon</li> </ul>
12:30 -1:00	Press conference
<b>1:00 – 2:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
2:00 -5:00	Meetings upon invitation
5:00	Closing of the doors ICSOE 2024
<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>End of day 4</b>