



Republic
of Burundi



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



2023 Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE)

UN Economic Commission for Africa - Central and Eastern Africa

Establishing Central and East Africa as Sources of Quality
Products and Investment Destinations of Choice, to
Accelerate Industrialization and Economic Diversification,
and to Strengthen Food Security

Club du Lac Tanganyika - Bujumbura, Burundi
26 - 29 September 2023

Annotated Program of Work

Working document

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Opening remarks

1. The opening of the joint session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) of the ECA Subregional Offices for Central and East Africa will be chaired by the outgoing Chairman of the 1st Joint session of the ICSOE, the representative of the Seychelles.
2. Opening addresses will be given by: the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Burundi; the President of the outgoing ICE Bureau for East Africa; the outgoing President of the ICE Bureau for Central Africa; and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECA. His Excellency Mr. Audace Niyonzima, Burundian Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, will open the session and deliver the keynote address.

Constitution of the Bureaus, review and adoption of the agenda

3. This session will be chaired by Burundi. During this session, the 2 new CIE bureaux will be set up. The new bureaux will guide the participants in the review and adoption of the work program.

Session 1: Macro-economic Overview

4. This session will be moderated by the host country and one of the presidents of the two new CIE offices, and co-chaired by representatives of the CIE offices for Central and East Africa, as mutually agreed. The ECA will make a presentation on macroeconomic changes and regional perspectives in Central and East Africa. The moderator will invite follow-up questions and other relevant contributions from the audience.
5. The second part of the session will be devoted to the launch of the East Africa Sub-Regional Profile. It will be moderated by the host country and the ECA Deputy Executive Secretary.

Session 2: High-level dialogue on quality improvement to accelerate industrialization and economic diversification, strengthen food security in Central and East Africa

6. This session will be chaired by the President of the CIE Bureau for Central Africa. It will be moderated by Mr. Jean-Luc Mastaki, Director, ECA Subregional Office for Central Africa. The session will feature two presentations, the first on quality and its determinants, and the second on food security. These two presentations will set the scene for the panel discussions. High-profile panelists will discuss quality issues and share their experiences on the importance of Quality as a foundation for the structural transformation of Central and East African economies. They will also address the issue

of food security in a context of rising food prices. The moderator will invite the audience to ask follow-up questions and make other relevant contributions.

Session 3: High level dialogue: Strengthening intra-regional food trade to improve food security in Central and East Africa: unlocking opportunities and meeting challenges

7. The session will be chaired by the President of the ICE Bureau for East Africa. It will be moderated by Ms Mama Keita, Director of the ECA's Subregional Office for East Africa. The ECA Office for East Africa will make a presentation on regional agricultural trade to combat growing food insecurity in Central and East Africa. This presentation will be followed by panel discussions. The moderator will invite interventions, follow-up questions and other relevant contributions.

Session 4: High-level dialogue on regional commodity exchanges as a means of stimulating investment, production, and industrialization by Africa

8. The session will be chaired by H.E. Mme Marie Chantal Nijimbere, Burundian Minister of Commerce, Industry, Transport and Tourism. It will be moderated by Ms. Mama Keita, Director of the ECA's Sub-Regional Office for East Africa. A presentation on regional commodity exchanges will set the scene for panel discussions. The moderator will invite participants to intervene and ask follow-up questions and other relevant contributions.

Session 5 : High-level dialogue on strengthening the attractiveness of Central and Eastern Africa to promote investments for diversification, industrialization, and food security

9. This session will be chaired by the President of the ICE Office for Central Africa. It will be moderated by Dr. Adama Ekberg Coulibaly, Head of Sub-Regional Initiatives, ECA Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa. The presentation on benchmarking, determinants and quality of investments and reforms will provide fresh insights and more informed opinion based on new research evidence now available. High-profile panelists will share their experiences and propose new directions and strategies to make Central and East Africa leading destinations for strategic and productive investment. The moderator will invite follow-up questions and other relevant contributions.

Session 6: Status of effective implementation of the AfCFTA in Central and Eastern Africa

10. This round table on the effective implementation of the AfCFTA in Central and East Africa will be chaired by the Chairman of the ICE Office for East Africa. It will be moderated by Dr. Andrew Mold, Head of the Trade and Regional Integration Section of the ECA's Sub-

Regional Office for East Africa. This round table will provide an opportunity to exchange and share experiences from the Regional Economic Communities, member states and the private sector on the state of trade negotiations and the implementation of AfCFTA strategies.

Session 7: Towards building bridges to strengthen collaborative frameworks in quality infrastructure

- 11.** This session will be chaired by the President of the ICE Office for Central Africa. It will be moderated by Dr. Adama Ekberg Coulibaly, Head of Subregional Initiatives, ECA Subregional Office for Central Africa. This session will enable participants to benefit from the sharing of East and West African experiences in the field of norms and standards. High-profile panellists will discuss and propose integrative, creative and sustainable solutions to strengthen cooperation on quality infrastructure. The moderator will invite follow-up questions and other relevant contributions.

Session 8: Presentation of the offices of SRO-CA and SRO-EA, activity reports since ICISOE 2022

- 12.** This session will be chaired by the President of the CIE Bureau for East Africa. The Sub-Regional Bureaus for Central and East Africa will present their Activity Reports. The Secretariat will make two further presentations on the theme of the next Annual Conference of Ministers (CoM2024) and the report on Sustainable Development for Africa. The moderator will invite participants to ask questions of clarification.

Session 9 : Closing

- 13.** This session will be chaired by the President of the CIE Bureau for Central Africa. The Secretariat will make a presentation on the choice of theme for the next session of the CIE. Participants will be invited to make recommendations. The draft statement of conclusions and recommendations will be examined and adopted. The meeting will then be closed.