



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

THEME:

Building Central and East Africa as the origins of quality products and
as prime investment destinations, to accelerate industrialization and
economic diversification, and strengthen food security

PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

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Day 1

08:00 – 09:00 : Registration of participants**09:00 – 10:00 : Opening ceremony****Opening remarks**

- **Mr. Abdou Dieng**, UN Resident Coordinator, Burundi
- Outgoing President of the East Africa Bureau: **Seychelles**
- Outgoing President of the Central Africa Bureau: **Gabon**
- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary (DES), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Guest of honour, **H.E. Audace Niyonzima**, Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Burundi

10:00 - 10:30 : Constitution of the Bureaus, review and adoption of the agenda**Chair: Seychelles**

During this session, the 2 new ICSOE Bureaus will be constituted. The new Bureaus will guide participants in the review and adoption of the agenda.

GROUP PHOTO**10 :30 – 11 :00: Coffee break****11:00 – 13:00 Session 1: Macro-economic Overview**

Chair: ICSOE Bureau-EA, H.E. Audace Niyonzima, Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Burundi

Speakers:

11:00 - 11:20 : Presentation on the macroeconomic panorama of Central and Eastern Africa – **Andrew Mold** and **Mamadou Bal**

11:20 - 13:00 : Discussion

13:00 - 13:30 : Launch of the sub-regional profile of East Africa- **Dr. Hanan Morsy** and **H.E. Audace Niyonzima**

13 :30 – 14:45 : Lunch break

14:45 – 17:00: [Session 2: High-level dialogue on quality improvement to accelerate industrialization and economic diversification, strengthen food security in Central and East Africa](#)

Chair: ICSOE Bureau-CA

Moderator: Jean-Luc Mastaki, Director, Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa
the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Speakers:

14:45 - 15:15 : Presentation. Quality, determinants, benchmarking, and catch-up options.

Léonard Ambassa, International Consultant.

15:15 - 15:45 : Presentation. State of food insecurity, Food safety, SPS and codex

Alimentarius - **Blaise Ouattara** et **Cyprien Biaou**, Food safety and quality officer, FAO

15:15 - 16:00 : Panel Discussion

- **Hermogene Nsengimana**, Secretary General of ARSO
- **Raymond Tavares**, UNIDO Representative
- **PissangTchangai Dademanao**, FAO Representative, Burundi
- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary (DES), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- **H.E. Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo**, Minister of SMEs Development, Crafts and Informal Sector, Congo
- **H.E. Sanctus Niragira**, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi

16 :00 – 16 :15 : Coffee break

[Session 2: Continued](#)

16:15 - 16:45 : Panel Discussion – Continued

- **H.E. Jose Mpanda**, Minister of Agriculture, DR Congo
- **H.E. Jeronimo Carlos OSA OSA NSANG**, Vice-Minister of Trade, Industry and Promotion of Enterprises, Equatorial Guinea
- **H.E. Tabuna Honoré**, Commissioner, Agriculture, food Security and Environment, CEEAC
- **Mr. KOLYANG Palébélé**, President of PAFFO/PROPAC (Pan African Farmers Organisation/ Plateform of Central Africa Farmers Organisations)

16:45 - 17:30: Plenary discussion

Day 2

08:30 - 10:30 : [Session 3: High level dialogue: Strengthening intra-regional food trade to improve food security in Central and East Africa: unlocking opportunities and meeting challenges](#)

Chair: ICSSOE Bureau-EA

Moderator: **Mama Keita**, Director, Sub-Regional Office for East Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Speakers:

08:30 - 08:45 : Presentation: Regional agricultural trade to tackle growing food insecurity in Central and East Africa – **Andrew Mold** and **Simone Kuete Assah**

08:45 - 9:30 : Panel discussions

- H.E. **Marie Chantal Nijimbere**, Minister of Trade, Industry, Transport and Tourism, Burundi, TBC
- **Hon Jean- Chrysostome Ngabitsinze**, Minister of Trade and industry, Rwanda, TBC
- **Hon Francis Mwembesa**, Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA
- **Shebani Kwalo**, Export Group Trading
- **Nicodemus Ndeti**, Director, G5 Logistics Group Ltd
- **Emmanuel Harelimana**, General Manager-Garden Fresh

09:45 – 10:30: Plenary Discussion

10 :30 – 10 : 45 : Coffee break

10:45 - 12:45: [Session 4: High-level dialogue on regional commodity exchanges as a means of stimulating investment, production, and industrialization by Africa.](#)

Chair: **H.E. Marie Chantal Nijimbere**, Minister of Trade, Industry, Tourism and Transport, Burundi

Moderator: **Mama Keita**, Director, Sub-Regional Office for East Africa,
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Speakers:

10:45 - 11:15 : Presentation. Regional commodity exchange. **Professor Issouf Soumaré**.

11:15 - 12:00: Panel Discussion

- H.E **Jean-Chrysostome Ngabitsinze**, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda, TBC
- **Edoh Kossi Amenouve**, CEO, Regional Stock Exchange

- **John Bosco Kalisa**, CEO EABC
- **Sonia Essobmadje**, Chief, Innovative finance and capital markets
- **Pascal Yembiline**, AfDB Burundi Country Manager
- **Joshua Rugema**, Chief Executive Officer, East Africa Exchange (EAX)
- **Saidi Zaina Chihabiddine Sitti Djaouharia**, President—Employers Organisation of Comoros

12:00 - 12:45 : Plenary Discussion

12:45 - 13:15 : **Special session: Launch of Burundi Investment Guide**

Officiated by:

- **HE Marie Chantal Nijimbere**, Minister of Trade, Industry, Transport and Tourism, Burundi
- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA

13:15 - 14:15 : Lunch Break

14:15 - 16:15: [Session 5: High-level dialogue on strengthening the attractiveness of Central and Eastern Africa to promote investments for diversification, industrialization, and food security](#)

Chair: ICSSOE-CA Bureau

Moderator: Adama Ekberg Coulibaly, Head of Sub-Regional Initiatives, SRO-CA, UNECA

Speakers:

14:15 - 14:45 : Presentation: **Professor Christian Otchia** et **Bertand Ngnie**, Consultants

Panel Discussion

- **Jean Claude Kessous**, International Consultant, Environnement des Affaires
- **Sékou Doumbouya**, International Consultant, Trade and Investment
- **Didace Ngendakumana**, CEO Burundian Development Agency
- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary, CEA

15 :45 - 16:00 : Coffee Break

Panel discussion – continued

- **H.E. Mr. OMANA BITIKA Pascal**, Vice-Minister of Planning, RDC
- **Félicité KO NGANA**, Vice-President, Economic and Social Council, RCA
- **Beyina Gregory**, Director of Industrial Development, Mines and Tourism, Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (CEMAC)
- **Mr. Charles Kahuthu**, CEO & Regional Coordinator, East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA)

16:30 – 17:00 : Plenary Discussion

Day 3

08:30 – 10:30 : **Session 6: Status of effective implementation of the AfCFTA in Central and Eastern Africa**

Chair: ICSOE- East Africa Bureau

Moderator: Andrew Mold, Chief Trade and Regional Integration section, SRO-EA

08:30 - 09:00 : Experiences sharing on AFCFTA implementation by AfCFTA Secretariat and the RECs

Speakers:

- **Emmanuel Mbarga**, Regional Adviser, AFCFTA Secretariat
- **Osman Mohammed Babikir**, Director, Economic Cooperation and Regional Integration Division, IGAD
- **Jacob Kotcho**, Director, Common Market Division, ECCAS
- **Marie-Angelique Umulisa**, Principal Trade Officer, EAC

09:00 - 09:30 : Experiences sharing on AFCTA implementation by private sector

Speakers:

- **John Bosco Kalisa**, CEO East Africa Business Council
- **Shebani Kwalo**, Export Group Trading
- **Celestin Tawamba**, President Central Africa Employers Union (UNIPACE)

09:30 - 10:30 : Plenary Discussions

10 : 30 – 10 :45 : Coffee break

10:45 - 12:45 : **Session 7: Towards building bridges to strengthen collaborative frameworks in quality infrastructure**

Chair: ICSOE-EA Bureau

Moderator: Adama Ekberg Coulibaly, Head of Sub-Regional Initiatives, Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Speakers:

10:45 - 11:05 : Presentation. One Africa One Market One Standard. Some construction bricks and solutions from East Africa. **Mr. Mark BAGABE**. International Consultant. Quality systems Management and food safety.

11:05 -11:25 : Presentation. One Africa One Market One Standard: Some Construction bricks and Solutions from West Africa. **Mr. Lassane KABORE**, Director of Industry and Private sector, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

11:25-12:05: Panel Discussion

- **Severin Sindayikengera**, CEO Burundian Agency for Standardization and Quality Control
- **Beyina Gregory**, Director of Industrial Development, Mines and Tourism, CEMAC
- **Yves Ariat**, International Consultant, Quality Infrastructure
- **Aka Kouassi**, Technical Advisor, ACP Infrastructure Development Programme Quality, UNIDO
- **Heba Hammad Radi Hammad**, General Manager of Standards, Egyptian Organization of Standards
- **Dr. A Raj**, CEO, Quality Council of India
- **Tak Leong CHEONG**, Director, Enterprise Singapore

12:05 - 12:45 : Plenary Discussion

13:00 - 14 :00 : Lunch break

14:00-16:00 : [Session 8: Presentation of the offices of SRO-CA and SRO-EA, activity reports since ICSOE 2022](#)

Chair: ICSOE-CA Bureau

Speakers:

14:00 - 14:20 : Presentation of the Activity Report and recent initiatives, Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa- **Sandrine Koissy-Kpein**, Economic Policy Officer, SRO-CA

14:20 - 14:40: Presentation of the Activity Report and recent initiatives, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa- **Emelang Leteane**, Head of Sub-Regional Initiatives, SRO-EA

14:40 – 16:00 : Plenary Discussion

16: 00 - 16:15 : Coffee break

16:15 -16:30 : Presentation. Theme of annual Conference of Ministers (COM2024).
Adam Elhairika, Directeur, Division de la Macro-économie et gouvernance

16:30-16:45 : Plenary discussions

16:45 - 17:00: Presentation of the Sustainable Development Report for Africa – Progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Central Africa

and East Africa. **Bartholomé Armah**, Head of the Section in charge of Development planning, Macroeconomics and Governance Division

17:00 -17:30 : Plenary discussions

Day 4

08:30 - 12:30 : [Session 9: Closing](#)

Chair: ICSOE Central Africa Bureau

08:30 - 09:00 : Presentation of the Theme, date, and venue of the next ICSOE meeting. **Adama Ekberg Coulibaly**, Head of Sub-Regional Initiatives, SRO-CA, UNECA

09:00 - 09:15 : Any other business

09:15 - 11:00 : Review and adoption of the report of the joint ICSOE meeting

11 :00 - 11 : 30 : Coffee break – Group photo

12h00 – 12h30 : Closing of the joint meeting 2023

- United Nations Resident Coordinator, Burundi
- New President of the SRO-EA Bureau/New President of the SRO-CA Bureau
- SRO-CA Representative/ SRO-EA Representative
- Representative of the Government of Burundi

12:30 - 13:00 : Press Conference

13:00 - 14:00 : Lunch break

14:00 : Site Visit