

Panel's questions on the AfCFTA

1. What difference will the AfCFTA make?
2. Which import duties have already been reduced since the AfCFTA operationalisation on 1 January 2021?
3. How long will the AfCFTA take to implement?
4. What is likely to have a larger effect on intra-Africa trade; tariff / non-tariff reductions?
5. What does all this mean to each African country?
6. What should astute businesses in Africa do during this time?
7. Where are the export opportunities right now for African exporters?
8. When will a country like South Africa which has ratified the AfCFTA and yet belongs to a custom union with a member like Botswana which hasn't ratified the AfCFTA be able to trade with other African countries under the new AfCFTA?
9. What does the AfCFTA tariff column in the SACU tariff book refer to?
10. Can existing exporters and importers in various countries trade with their existing registration codes accorded by their respective revenue services under the AfCFTA?
11. What will make the biggest difference to intra-Africa trade? Tariff liberalisation or removal of non-tariff barriers?
12. What is holding back intra-Africa trade to date?
13. Why are so many people interested in an Africa trade agreement today when the history of African trade is littered with so many challenges?
14. How can countries ratify a trade agreement before the tariff proposals have been accepted among countries?
15. Regional economic communities (RECs) recognised by the AfCFTA are currently eight with some member states simultaneously belonging to two or more, how does the AfCFTA aim to streamline these per geographic classification in which one African region will have one regional economic bloc?
16. Which REC are responsible for less than 50% of Intra-Africa trade?
17. When will the RECs be transformed into regional customs unions?