



UNCTAD & SADC PF COLLABORATION

Theme: *Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Advancing Regional Trade Integration through the AfCFTA*

SESSION SCHEDULE & SPEAKERS BIO

SESSION	TIME GMT +2	DESCRIPTION AND SPEAKER/PRESENTER
TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2025		
SESSION 2 SADC Regional trade instruments and the AfCFTA Framework	10:00 – 10:20	Chair: Hon Sefulo Sibesso Global and regional trade architecture & Key SADC regional trade instruments – Mr. Rinaldo Mendiate, Acting Senior Programme Officer, Trade - SADC Secretariat - <i>Interactions with continental and global trade frameworks (AfCFTA, Tripartite Free Trade Area, WTO)</i>
	10:20 – 10:50	AfCFTA Framework – Ms. Diane Sayinzoga, Chief, ROA UNCTAD - Objectives, Status, operational instruments - Protocols on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, dispute settlement, etc. - Implications, benefits, and challenges for SADC Member States
	10:50 – 11:30	Q&A Session
	11:30 – 11:45	Wrap up and closing – SADC PF

Speakers Bio

Mr. Rinaldo Mendiata: He has worked for SADC Secretariat since 2019. He is a Programme Officer for Multilateral Trade but currently is the Acting Senior Programme Officer for Trade at the SADC Secretariat. In his current position, he oversees trade in goods, trade in services and competition policy. He has a bachelor's degree in international relations and diplomacy, master's in international Trade Law and PhD in International Development. He is from Mozambique

Mrs. Diane Sayinzoga: Mrs. Diane Sayinzoga, a Rwandese national, has extensive work experience in development-related areas such as trade and investment promotion, special economic zones (SEZs), SME support, and gender promotion. She heads UNCTAD's Regional Office for Africa, based in Addis Ababa. Before joining UNCTAD, she served as Head of the Special Economic Zones and Exports Facilitation Department at the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). She also worked as an Advisor in the Office of the Executive Director at the International Trade Centre (ITC) under the Mo Ibrahim Leadership Fellowship Programme, and at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Rwanda. Mrs. Sayinzoga was also a Board Member of several institutions in Rwanda, including the University Teaching Hospitals, the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), and the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB). She holds a master's degree in international and development economics from the Economic School of Louvain, Belgium.