



# FORUM FOR NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

27– 29 NOVEMBER 2018, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

*Empowering Public-Private partnership for trade facilitation*

# AFRICA

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# INVOLVEMENT AND ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE NTFCs

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# LAYOUT OF PRESENTATION

- About EABC
- EABC Experience of Partnering with Public Sector in Implementing Trade Facilitation Reforms
- How EABC Ensure a Unified Regional Business Voice
- How Can Regional Business Forums Help RECs to Coordinate Trade Facilitation Reforms
- Conclusion



## ABOUT EABC

- Apex body of business associations & corporates in EAC region
- Established in 1997 to foster interests of private sector in EAC integration
- **Vision:** A borderless East Africa for Business and Investment
- **Mission:** To promote sustainable Private Sector Driven Growth
- EABC enjoys **Observer Status** with EAC which enables it to participate in various EAC activities/meetings and policy formulations
- EABC is recognized as a Champion of Private Sector issues under EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework
- Secretariat is base in Arusha but work closely with National Focal Points (NFPs) at National levels



## **EABC EXPERIENCE OF PARTNERING WITH PUBLIC SECTOR IN IMPLEMENTING TRADE FACILITATION REFORMS**

- Jointly with EAC developed NTBs Monitoring Mechanism which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in August 2006.
- Participated in setting up and launching of Regional NTBs Monitoring Committee in December 2008
- Jointly with EAC Secretariat conducting EAC Secretary General CEO Forums and Trade Facilitation Agencies Forums
- Revising EAC Rules of Origin
- EABC Participating as member to the Regional Committee on Trade Facilitation
- Partnering with Public Sector bring sense of ownership, enhance compliance from private and predictability for the reforms



## HOW EABC ENSURES A UNIFIED REGIONAL BUSINESS VOICE

- Through observer status in EAC, EABC harmonise private sector positions and present to EAC Policy Makers ( Involve all relevant stakeholders)
- Through National Focal Points (NFPs) country positions are collected and harmonized by EABC at Regional Level ( Sectoral business representatives must be engaged thoroughly )
- Through regional validated evidenced based policy advocacy which finally presented to EAC by EABC as position of Private Sector ( Positions should be informed by evidenced based research for business to have a unified voice)
- Convene Regional Forum representing key stakeholders to validate and Harmonised regional position ( Regional forum should be adequately constitute all relevant stakeholders )



## HOW CAN REGIONAL BUSINESS FORUMS HELP RECS TO COORDINATE TRADE FACILITATION REFORMS

- Regional Business Forums will input on Regional Trade Facilitation Committee which coordinate TF reforms
- Through Regional Business Forums countries can share challenges and opportunities of implementing TF Measures and adopted common standards which will be used by RECs
- Convene Regional Business Forum representing key stakeholders from national level to validate and harmonized regional positions



## CONCLUSION

- Active Involvement of Private Sector in the Trade Facilitation Reforms is key in improving business environment and boosting intra-Africa trade as well as connecting African SMEs in the global value chain
- Participation of the Private Sector in all stages of Trade Facilitation reforms will enhance private sector compliance on any new TF measures
- Benefits of Trade Facilitation Reforms outweigh their Costs hence need for participation of private sector is of paramount important in cutting transaction costs





# THANK YOU!



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