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AfCFTA/SCROO/WORKSHOP/1/CONCEPT NOTE

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# WORKSHOP ON THE DRAFTING OF THE AfCFTA RULES OF ORIGIN (RoO) MANUAL

## Virtual

### 21 February 2022

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# CONCEPT NOTE

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AfCFTA Secretariat  
Africa Trade House  
Ambassadorial Enclave  
Liberia Road, Accra - Ghana  
Telephone: +233 (0)59 692 1130

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area provides in Article 8.3 that additional instruments as may be necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement shall be concluded and shall, upon their adoption, form an integral part of the Agreement.
- 1.2 In line with Article 13 of the Protocol on Trade in Goods, the work of the negotiating structures has resulted in the adoption of Annex 2 on Rules of Origin and almost 88% of the tariff lines constituting Appendix IV. These two legal documents on rules of origin should be operationalized through the use of the Rules of Origin Manual.
- 1.3 In Article 42.1 (f) of Annex 2 on transitional arrangements, States Parties agreed that the drafting of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual/ Guidelines remains outstanding.
- 1.4 In preparation for the implementation of Annex 2 on Rules of Origin of AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Goods, the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers, which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, decided that the work on the drafting of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual should be prioritized.
- 1.5 The drafting of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual could develop rapidly by taking into account the best practices within the RECs and within the framework of international conventions applicable to the African Union, in accordance with the principles governing the AfCFTA as defined in Article 5 of the Agreement.

## 2. Objectives of the workshop

### 2.1 Overall objective

The workshop will enable participants to learn about the best practices in the drafting of Rules of origin operational manuals in order to propose improvements to the AfCFTA manual.

### 2.2 Specific objectives

More specifically, the workshop will enable participants to:

- learn about the experiences of African RECs in drafting operational manual on rules of origin;

- learn about the international standards in drafting operational manual on rules of origin;
- to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the different models presented;
- to make recommendations for improvements to the AfCFTA Rules of origin operational manual.

### 3. Expected outcomes

3.1 The workshop should enable rules of origin experts to learn about the best practices and experiences on drafting operational manual on rules of origin and improve the AfCFTA rules of origin operational manual.

### 4. Structure and format

4.1 The workshop will consist of experience sharing sessions on drafting rules of origin operational manuals and discussions.

### 5. Participation

5.1 The workshop is designated for Rules of Origin Experts of AfCFTA State Parties and non- State Parties. Customs officials are also encouraged to participate.

### 6. Date and venue

6.1 The workshop will be conducted virtually on 21 February 2022.

### 7. Contact

7.1 For further information regarding the workshop, please contact the following officers:

Lucy Amankwah	Legal Officer	Email: <a href="mailto:Lucy.Amankwah@au-afcfta.org">Lucy.Amankwah@au-afcfta.org</a>
Abena Dickson	Programme Officer	Email: <a href="mailto:Abena.Dickson@au-afcfta.org">Abena.Dickson@au-afcfta.org</a>
Genet Tekle	Programme Management Officer	Email: <a href="mailto:Genet.Tekle@au-afcfta.org">Genet.Tekle@au-afcfta.org</a>
Didier Bonyeme	Rules of Origin Senior Expert	Email: <a href="mailto:Didier.Bonyeme@au-afcfta.org">Didier.Bonyeme@au-afcfta.org</a>