



Report of the Seminar

Basic Data

Name of participating organization:
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/African Union Commission
Certification number: S059
Date: 29 August 2019 Time: 13:00-14:30
Venue: Pacifico Yokohama Annex Room F201
Number of participants at your seminar/symposium: 64
Ratio of gender among participants (estimate): Female 35%, Male 65%
Nationality among participants (estimate): Japanese nationals 40%, other nationals 60%
Working language: English (no interpretation)

As part of its participation at the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD, Yokohama, Japan 28-30 August 2019), UNCTAD and the African Union (AU) Commission organized an official side event on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement on the afternoon of Thursday, 29 August 2019. The occasion allowed UNCTAD and the AU to introduce the landmark agreement to establish the AfCFTA, as had been mentioned by numerous African Heads of State during the plenary of TICAD, and to showcase the work that both UNCTAD's Division on Trade in International Goods and the Division on Investment and Enterprise are doing to support the negotiations on non-tariff measures commitments and the AfCFTA protocol on intellectual property, respectively, under a project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ). The underlying message was the need for continued technical assistance to support the future negotiations and implementation now that the AfCFTA agreement has come into force.

The event was opened with a video provided by the AU on the continent's aspirations for the AfCFTA.¹ This was followed by a brief introduction by the MC, **Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi** of **UNCTAD**, about what has been agreed to date. The AfCFTA agreement establishes the main decision-making, administrative and adjudicatory bodies of the Area and the framework to negotiate future commitments on a wide range of areas including tariffs, non-tariff measures and rules of origin, among others. The AU countries will soon begin negotiations on a second set of Protocols on, respectively, investment, intellectual property and competition.

¹ The AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry had originally been scheduled to provide a keynote speech but due to complications with connecting flights, the delegation from the AUC's Department of Trade and Industry was unable to attend TICAD 7 at the last moment. It was agreed between DTI and UNCTAD to present the video in place of the address.



Panelist **Ms. Mina Arai-Ito**, Representative of **ZENMONDO** and of counsel at the international law firm **Baker & McKenzie**, highlighted the importance of including elements in the forthcoming investment protocol that reduce both actual and perceived risks of investing across the continent, based on her experience with the international law firm's Middle East and Africa Focus Group. Panelist **Mr. Jamie MacLeod**, Trade Policy Fellow at the **UN Economic Commission for Africa**, noted that the AfCFTA secretariat, located in Accra, Ghana, is scheduled to be operational as of the end of March 2020, and stressed the importance of coordinating the support given by development partners to the AfCFTA, including in negotiations, implementation and in the elaboration of national AfCFTA strategies.

Representatives of the donor/technical assistance community outlined their efforts in providing support to AfCFTA and its institutions. **Mr. Yiannis Neophytou**, Head of the Division of Development Cooperation at **BMZ** outlined its support to AfCFTA both through their bilateral technical cooperation under GIZ, as well as through UNCTAD. **Mr. Adachi** provided a brief explanation of its BMZ funded technical cooperation projects in the areas of non-tariff measures and its negotiations support for the elaboration of a Protocol on Intellectual Property. **Ms. Aileen Marshall**, Advisor for the African region at the **World Bank**, congratulated the African countries for their landmark agreement, and reiterated the Bank's support to work with others in supporting the AfCFTA process. **Dr. Razvan-Silviu Jora** of the **European Commission** highlighted the EU support to date has been 42 billion Euro and expected to increase to 52-3 billion Euro in the near future. He also noted the challenges that lie ahead for the continent given the experiences to date of Europe's integration. **Mr. Akihiko Kodama**, Deputy Director for the Private Sector Development Group at **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** stressed the importance of building the capacity of the private sector in the light of future integration and underlined JICA's work in introducing '*kaizen*' work practices in various industries across the African continent, and stressed its relevance for the aims of AfCFTA.

After the speakers, there was a Q&A session where the audience could ask questions or provide their observations/comments. Comments and questions included whether it was meaningful that only the institutional mechanisms have been agreed and that the important commitments had not yet been made, and whether there was any prospect for a single pan-African currency. The speakers responded that it was important to have the institutions since it provides the framework for negotiating commitments. In this regard, it was noted that other regions, including ASEAN and the EU, also set up their institutional structures ahead of their commitments, the negotiations for which are a continuous process. That said, it was recognized that much of the hard work in integration lies in the future. Mr. MacLeod and Mr. Jora mentioned that while there were plans for a common currency in Africa, the introduction of a common currency is as much a political issue as it is an economic one, and that lessons could be learned from the early stages of European integration.

The event was well attended (64 participants from Africa, Europe and Japan), with representatives of governments, private sector, civil society, academia and the press. The organizers wish to thank



the four student volunteers from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo for assisting on the day of the seminar.

The seminar programme is contained in Annex 1 of the Report; the biographies of the speakers is attached as Annex 2; and photos of the session are included in Annex 3.



Annex 1: Programme

Realising African industrial development and regional value chains under AfCFTA

An AUC-UNCTAD Side Event during TICAD VII

Thursday, 29 August 2019

13:00- 14:30, F201, Pacifico Yokohama, Annex

Video: Africa's Aspirations for AfCFTA – African Union Commission (AUC)

Introduction – the AfCFTA and Technical Cooperation:

Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi, Legal Officer, Division on Investment and Enterprise, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); *Mr. Yiannis Neophytou*, Head, Cooperation with Pan-African Partners, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Panel: *Ms. Mina Arai-Ito*, Representative of ZENMONDO and Of Counsel, Baker & McKenzie, Tokyo; *Mr. Jamie MacLeod*, Trade Policy Advisor, African Trade Policy Centre, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA),

Discussants: *Mr. Razvan-Silviu Jora*, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission; *Ms. Aileen Marshall*, Advisor, World Bank Africa Region; *Mr. Akihiko Kodama*, Private Sector Development Group, JICA

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, signed in March 2018, aims to promote trade and industrial development through the elimination of non-tariff barriers, transparency in non-tariff measures (NTMs), and the diversification of domestic industry and regional value chains that have been lacking in the continent. Realising these objectives would require not only the effective implementation of the AfCFTA commitments by state parties but also promoting coherence among state parties' policies and building the capacity of the private sector on trade, investment and technology transactions. Based on UNCTAD's experience, technical cooperation is more effective when it targets both state parties' policies and the private sector, while providing for a comprehensive approach to investment, intellectual property, technology and trade.

The objective of this side event is to increase awareness of the AfCFTA; foster consensus among development partners on technical cooperation requirements to promote industrial development through diversification, regional value chains and NTM transparency; and establish the basis for coordination among development partners. The TICAD venue will provide a unique opportunity to focus on the importance placed by African countries on the AfCFTA. At the same time, it will generate important feedback from the investor community in respect of private sector cooperation and technology partnerships.

For further information contact: Kiyoshi Adachi, Legal Officer, Intellectual Property Unit, Division on Investment and Enterprise; UNCTAD. Email: Kiyoshi.Adachi@un.org; event coordinator, Tokyo; Christoph Spennemann, Officer-in-Charge, Intellectual Property Unit, Division on Investment and Enterprise; UNCTAD, Geneva. Email: Christoph.Spennemann@un.org.



Annex 2: Bionotes

Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi is a Legal Officer of the Division on Investment and Enterprise, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Since 2006, Mr. Adachi has led a team of international lawyers at UNCTAD looking into the integrated treatment of intellectual property, technology transfer and development issues, and has published and lectured widely on this interface (including at UNCTAD workshops, the WIPO Academy, the United Nations University, CEIPI/University of Strasbourg, Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and the SIPO Training Institute in Beijing, among others). He has advised and trained stakeholders in a number of developing countries in Asia and Africa on intellectual property provisions in preferential trade and investment agreements; intellectual property and local manufacturing of, and access to, medicines

Mr. Yiannis Neophytou is Head of the Division of Development Cooperation at Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, in charge of Cooperation with Pan-African Organizations. He has had numerous postings abroad as part of the German government, including serving as First Secretary and Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Ms. Mina Arai-Ito handles a broad range of corporate and commercial transactions for both inbound and outbound investments. She also advises on compliance, governance, and international trade law matters. Currently of counsel and a former partner at the Tokyo office of Baker McKenzie, she has a wide experience as project manager on behalf of multinational clients in major M&A transactions and other cross-border projects. Mina Arai-Ito is currently the head of the Firm's Middle East & Africa Focus Group in Tokyo, having returned to Tokyo after spending three years at Baker McKenzie's Cairo office. Ms. Arai-Ito is also the founder and representative of ZENMONDO, a global business community designed to bridge Japanese businesses with those in the Middle East and Africa.

Mr. Jamie MacLeod is a Trade Policy Fellow of the Africa Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has consulted broadly on trade policy issues, including with the World Bank, the European Commission and the Danish International Development Agency, and was formerly a Trade Economist at the Ghanaian Ministry of Trade and Industry. He holds an M.Sc. in Economics for Development from the University of Oxford, where he was a Snell Scholar, and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Glasgow.

Ms. Aileen Marshall is an Advisor in the World Bank Africa Region and serves as the manager of the Africa Region's strategic engagement with a range of development partners and African institutions. Prior to this, she was a Senior Advisor for the intergovernmental Global Coalition for Africa (GCA), where she managed the GCA's political economy, governance, security, and conflict management portfolio. She has also worked for other international development agencies and in the private sector. She has wide experience of political economy and development issues.



Dr. Razvan-Silviu Jora is a Romanian national who has been previously involved in development studies teaching and research at various Japanese universities (Yokohama National University, Kobe University etc.). In 2010 he joined the European Commission dealing with innovation policy development, SMES and international business facilitation, after which he was assigned to the EU Delegation in Tokyo for 7 years as general manager of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation. Currently he is working as official at the European Commission, DG DEVCO, dealing with the OECD and the EU-Japan Cooperation for development in third countries.

Mr. Akihiko Kodama is a Deputy Director, Private Sector Development Group, Industrial Development and Public Policy Department, JICA. His division is in charge of private sector development of Africa, Middle East and Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean countries. In JICA, he served in Kyushu Center, Africa Department, and in JICA's Burkina Faso Office. While in Burkina Faso Office, he was in charge of the regional integration program.



Annex 3 Photos of the Event

