

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva Office are kindly inviting you to participate in

a Working Session at the 2015 WTO Public Forum on

CFTA: Boosting Trade for People in Africa?

held 1 October 2015, 15:30-17:30 at Room S2, WTO

In June 2015, the African Union summit launched negotiations to achieve a free trade area throughout the continent. The first phase of the negotiations will cover both goods and services, to be followed by investment, competition policy, and intellectual property. This panel will discuss the context, scope, and sequence of the negotiations. It will review analytical work and approaches to understand the potential impact of the CFTA on intra-African trade expansion, structural change, poverty reduction, incomes, employment, agriculture livelihoods and food security.

In particular, it will focus on the contribution trade can make to industrialization efforts on the continent, drawing upon the insights from the UNECA's 2015 Economic Report on Africa which focused on industrialization through trade. It will further delineate the potentials of a Human Rights Impact Assessment on the design and process of a regional trade agreement. A ceremony and reception to launch the Economic Report on Africa 2015 will follow the session.

The report can be accessed at this link: <http://www.uneca.org/publications/economic-report-africa-2015>

Speakers include

- ❖ Mr. **David Luke**, Coordinator African Trade Policy Centre, UNECA, and Mr. **Hubert René Schillinger**, Director, FES Geneva Office, for the welcoming remarks, and
- ❖ Mr. **Stephen Karingi**, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, UNECA
- ❖ **Ambassador Xavier Carim**, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the WTO
- ❖ Ms. **Marion Jansen**, Chief Economist, ITC
- ❖ Mr. **Ayush Bat-Erdene**, Chief, Right to Development, OHCHR.

➤ From 17:30 onwards, participants are welcome to join the speakers for a reception in the WTO Gallery (1st floor, new building) ➤