

## WEBINAR: Climate Change and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

### Background

Climate adaptation and resilience are critical for Africa. The continent has contributed less than 3% of global cumulative emissions, and yet it continues to be the region experiencing the harshest effects of the climate crisis. African countries have made steps towards formulating responses to address the impacts of the climate crisis, with climate adaptation and climate financing as some of the top priorities.

Africa is the world's least industrialized region. One of the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that was launched in 2021 is to create a single continental market of 1.2 billion people, harmonizing existing trade agreements, and creating instruments that will allow them not just to trade more efficiently with each other and establish regional value chains, but also to create more and better opportunities for African industrialization by offering firms a larger market. Promoting industrialization, therefore, is at the heart of the AfCFTA.

How should industrialization under the AfCFTA look like considering environmental sustainability, transition to green growth and using renewable energy sources? What are the short-term realities and priorities, and what should long-term goals be? How can industrialization policies support climate adaptation in Africa?

What is the role of Germany/EU and the US in all this, given their historical responsibilities as well as their commitments under the UNFCCC process?

### The Webinar

APRI – Africa Policy Research Institute in partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Washington, D.C. office, is hosting a webinar on climate change in the context of the implementation of AfCFTA. The event will take place virtually on **Wednesday, 4 May 2022, from 1500h CEST** (see agenda for more details). The webinar will bring together experts in climate and environmental risk, researchers, policymakers, and the private sector to:

- Discuss the place of AfCFTA within the emerging global climate agenda and Africa's own emerging climate agenda.
- Identify key actions for climate-related policy areas such as green finance, climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture, and land management in the implementation of the AfCFTA.
- Highlight policy recommendations for key sectors of industrialization within AfCFTA and the role of development partners.

Since its inception in July 2021, APRI and its partners have been generating evidence-based policy research to understand how African countries can balance efforts to address the climate crisis with their goals of economic growth and job creation for the youngest populations in the world.

This webinar extends this work under APRI's Africa's Climate Agenda Program.

## Agenda: 1500h – 1615h CEST

14:30 – 14:50	<b>Log in and connection to the streaming platform</b>
15:00 – 15:05	<p><b>Welcome and acknowledgements</b></p> <p>Bastian Hermisson – Executive Director, Heinrich Böll-Stiftung, Washington, DC office</p> <p><i>Moderator - Teniola Tayo, Institute for Security Studies</i></p>
15:05 – 15:20	<p><b>Session 1: Paper presentation</b></p> <p><b>Calvin Manduna</b> – International Trade Law consultant with the ACP International Trade Advisers, Washington, DC, and former Principal Trade Expert with the African Development Bank</p> <p><b>Taku Fundira</b> – Market Intelligence Consultant specializing in international trade, agriculture, energy, and development finance, and founding member, South African Trade Reference Group and an Associate at the Trade Law Centre (Tralac), South Africa</p>
15:20 – 15:50	<p><b>Sesion 2: Panel discussion</b></p> <p><b>Brian Mureverwi</b> – Trade Advisor, Dept. of Trade and Industry, African Union Commission</p> <p><b>Calvin Manduna</b> – International Trade Law consultant with the ACP International Trade Advisers, Washington, DC, and former Principal Trade Expert with the African Development Bank</p> <p><b>Dr. Benedikt Erforth</b> – Senior Researcher, Inter- and Transnational Cooperation, German Development Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the place of AfCFTA within the emerging global climate agenda and Africa's own emerging climate agenda.</li> <li>• Identify key actions for climate-related policy areas such as green finance, climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture, and land management in the implementation of the AfCFTA.</li> <li>• Highlight policy recommendations for key sectors of industrialization within AfCFTA and the role development partners in accelerating progress in the context of climate change.</li> </ul>
15:50 – 16:05	<p><b>Open plenary session and Q&amp;A</b></p> <p><i>Moderator - Teniola Tayo, Institute for Security Studies</i></p>
16:05 – 16:15	<b>Recommendations and next steps</b>