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## Webinar on Trade Integration in Africa - Unleashing the continent's potential in a changing world

The IMF's Africa Training Institute (ATI), Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF), and Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) invite you to join the webinar on "Trade Integration in Africa- Unleashing the continent's potential in a changing world".

**DATE:** February 14, 2024

**TIME:** 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Mauritius time (GMT +4) (See time in your city [HERE](#))

**LANGUAGE:** English with interpretation into Arabic, French, Portuguese

**EXPERTS:** Fei Lu (Senior Economist, IMF) – Sergei Meleshchuk (Economist, IMF)

**REGISTER:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82380545903>

The AfCFTA has the potential to transform regional trade and thereby lift growth and support livelihoods across the continent. This paper lays out the benefits that successful AfCFTA implementation could unlock for Africa in terms of income, jobs, and other benefits. It is based on an empirical analysis of the obstacles to trade in goods and services and regional value chain integration along with a discussion of how regional trade integration and supporting policies could help African countries cope with ongoing global and domestic trends. The empirical analysis investigates the role of trade policy and the broader trade-enabling environment in determining the bilateral goods trade flows and country-level trade in services. It sheds light on how the implementation of AfCFTA and supporting policies could boost trade and income as well as help African countries integrate into regional value chains. The findings suggest that plausible reductions in tariffs and nontariff barriers under AfCFTA, along with improvements in broader trade-enabling environment (trade infrastructure, financial development, and domestic security), would substantially boost intra-African trade in goods and services, and support integration into regional value chains. Further, regional trade integration could be an important element of a strategy for African countries to cope with rapid population growth, climate change, and emerging geopolitical fragmentation.

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