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Regional Workshop on Modernizing Customs Procedures to Achieve the Objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD), in collaboration with the Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) is organizing a regional workshop in Cairo, Egypt on January 16-18, 2024.

This workshop, organized as part of an ongoing capacity development project sponsored by the Japanese Government, will bring together senior Customs Officials and representatives for the regional economic communities recognized by the AfCFTA Agreement in the region: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia, Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), AfCFTA Secretariat, and World Customs Organization.

The purpose of the workshop is to reach a convergence of views among the participants on the priority needs for modernization of the customs administration in relation to implementing the AfCFTA successfully and on the modern options that should be retained to meet them.

Themes to be addressed are:

- Modernization of the management and control of preferential origin: the essential role of customs, procedural, organizational, and technological aspects, for both exports and imports.
- In intra-African trade, elimination of non-tariff barriers coming from customs: digitalized, harmonized customs procedures based on data exchange.
- Selected issues, including procedures to facilitate small and medium-sized enterprises' access to the benefits of the Agreement and the desirability of formalizing informal border trade.