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**AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AND SPECIAL  
ECONOMIC ZONES**

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**African Union**



**Creating One African Market**



# OUTLINE

- Update on AfCFTA
- Benefit to SEZ



# Update on AfCFTA

- 54 countries have signed; 37 countries have submitted instruments of ratification;
- 86% of Rules of Origin have been concluded; Amongst the outstanding areas are: edible oils, automotive industry, textiles
- Work on tariff offers, which are based on 90% tariff lines still ongoing
- Required trading documents have been identified, and are known
- Offers on Services on going
- Negotiations on Phase II issues are underway
- Capacity building/awareness exercises are underway
- National Implementation strategies are being established
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# Benefits to SEZ

These are recognized in the AfCFTA Agreement; Art 23 of the Protocol on Trade in Goods states:

## Special Economic Arrangements/Zones

1. State Parties may support the *establishment* and *operation* of special economic arrangements or zones for the purpose of *accelerating development*.
2. Products benefiting from special economic arrangements or zones shall be subject to any regulations that shall be developed by the Council of Ministers. Regulations under this paragraph shall be *in support of the continental industrialisation programmes*.
3. The trade of products manufactured in special economic arrangements or zones within the AfCFTA shall be subject to the provisions of Annex 2 on Rules of Origin.

(my own italics)



# Benefits to SEZ

- Supply of goods to the AfCFTA
- Tool to accelerate development
- Support industrialization
- Value Chains
- Investment
- Job creation
- Economic activity
- **Note**
  - There is need for SEZ Regulations
  - Goods from SEZs are bound by the RoO in the AfCFTA



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# Thank you for your attention

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