

ANNEX A

Report on Tasks done by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in January 2021 Department of Trade and Industry African Union Commission

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1. Background

The Standards Alliance (SA) recruited a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Expert/Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation to support the implementation of the TBT related commitments under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement as well as other Trading Arrangements including African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

The Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation is directly supporting the work of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of the African Union Commission (AUC) through the AfCFTA Interim Unit/Permanent Secretariat to design and implement the mechanisms required for the implementation of the commitments under Annex 6 on TBT of the AfCFTA Agreement and strengthening of U.S. – Africa cooperation on TBT.

In order for the Senior Advisor to effectively advise the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC and State Parties on TBT issues, it is important for the Advisor to keep abreast of TBT issues at regional, continental and international levels. In this respect, the Senior Advisor will continue to network with RECs, Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, WTO Secretariat and other trade-related regional, continental and international institutions to attend and or participate in TBT and related events.

In addition, as new tools are developed at international level to facilitate the implementation of the TBT Agreement or enhancements to existing tools are undertaken, it is equally important for the Senior Advisor to bring this to the attention of RECs and State Parties and work with them to participate in piloting such tools. This will enhance the uptake and implementation of new/upgraded tools at continental, regional and State Parties levels.

This report contains details of activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in January 2021. The report was prepared in fulfilment of an obligation to submit monthly reports contained in the contract of the Senior Advisor.

2. Activities undertaken in January 2021

Activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in January 2021 are contained in the following below. The Senior Advisor notes that on 13 January 2021, the internet was officially switched off in Uganda and this affected participation of the Senior Advisor in a number of online events/activities until 18 January when some limited access to

#	Activity	Responsibilities/deliverables the activity contribute toward achievement	Remark(s)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Country Reports on Start of Trading on 1 January, 2021; iii. Terms of Reference for the Subcommittees, (as per Article 31 of Protocol on Trade in Goods); iv. AfCFTA Apps; v. Online mechanism for addressing non-tariff barriers; vi. The Africa Trade Observatory; vii. Operational manual; viii. Regulations on Article 9 of Annex 2 for Goods produced under Special Economic Arrangements/ Zones; ix. Updates from State Parties on notification of competent/designated authorities and enquiry points; x. Tariff Schedules of State Parties and Regional Groupings; xi. State Parties preparedness to start Trading under AfCFTA; and xii. Mainstreaming Gender, Youth and SMEs under AfCFTA.
3.	AfCFTA Second Meeting of Directors-General/Heads of Customs, 21 January 2021.	Support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislation, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process.	The meeting considered the Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Trade in Goods jointly with the Subcommittees held from 18-20 January 2021.
4.	Sixth Meeting of the Committee of Senior Trade Officials, 22 January 2021.	Support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislation, regulations, and production methods into compliance with	The meeting considered the Report of the AfCFTA Second Meeting of Directors-General/Heads of Customs held on 21 January 2021;

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		international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, the Committee discussed the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Transfer of AfCFTA Negotiating functions and structures such as the AfCFTA Support Unit to the AfCFTA Secretariat by 31 March 2021; ii. Transfer of the African Continental Free Trade Area Negotiations Support Unit staff and budget to the AfCFTA Secretariat by 31 March 2021; iii. Dissolution of the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT) by 31 December 2021 and transfer its subsidiary organs to the AfCFTA Council of Ministers; iv. Discussion on how all African Union Member States fully participate in the negotiations and implementation activities of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers in accordance with the principles of inclusivity and sovereign equality of all states; v. Undertaking all the outstanding negotiations and implementation of the AfCFTA under the Council of Ministers; and vi. Concluding outstanding negotiations in the Protocols under Phase I and fast track Phase II and Phase III negotiations covering Competition Policy, Investment, Intellectual Property Rights, and Ecommerce by December 2021.
5.	AfCFTA TBT Advisor Regular Call, 28 January 2021.	Not application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last AfCFTA TBT Advisor Regular Call was held on 3 December 2020; • The TBT Advisor provided a comprehensive updates on the

#	Activity	Responsibilities/deliverables in Advisor's TORs to which the activity contribute toward achievement	Remark(s)
			activities that he undertook since the last coordination call. Most of the updates were included in the TBT Advisor's report for December 2020.

3. Recommendation

The Senior Advisor reiterates that arrangement be made in consultation with DTI for presentation of the work plan and proposal for a strategic framework for the implementation of Annex 6 of the AfCFTA Agreement to the AfCFTA Secretariat/Unit.

Report on Tasks done by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in February 2021
Department of Trade and Industry
African Union Commission

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1. Background

The Standards Alliance (SA) recruited a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Expert/Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation to support the implementation of the TBT related commitments under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement as well as other Trading Arrangements including African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

The Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation is directly supporting the work of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of the African Union Commission (AUC) through the AfCFTA Interim Unit/Permanent Secretariat to design and implement the mechanisms required for the implementation of the commitments under Annex 6 on TBT of the AfCFTA Agreement and strengthening of U.S. – Africa cooperation on TBT.

In order for the Senior Advisor to effectively advise the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC and State Parties on TBT issues, it is important for the Advisor to keep abreast of TBT issues at regional, continental and international levels. In this respect, the Senior Advisor will continue to network with RECs, Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, WTO Secretariat and other trade-related regional, continental and international institutions to attend and or participate in TBT and related events.

In addition, as new tools are developed or enhancements to existing tools are undertaken at international level to facilitate the implementation of the TBT Agreement, it is equally important for the Senior Advisor to bring this to the attention of RECs and State Parties and work with them to participate in piloting such tools. This will enhance the uptake and implementation of new/upgraded tools at continental, regional and State Parties levels.

This report contains details of activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in February 2021. The report was prepared in fulfilment of an obligation to submit monthly reports contained in the contract of the Senior Advisor.

2. Background to Activities undertaken in February 2021

2.1. Position Paper on Ninth Triennial of the TBT Agreement

Triennial Reviews of the TBT Agreement is provided for in Article 15.4 of the Agreement. WTO TBT Committee is currently undertaking the Ninth Triennial Review of the Agreement. The Review is expected to be concluded in November 2021. Annex 6 to the AfCFTA Agreement states that the TBT Agreement includes decisions and recommendations adopted by the WTO TBT Committee since 1 January 1995. Most of the decisions and recommendations of WTO TBT Committee are made during Triennial Reviews.

In addition, Article 15.4 of the TBT Agreement also mandate WTO TBT Committee where appropriate, to submit proposals for amendments to the text of the TBT Agreement to WTO Council for Trade in Goods. This directly relates to Article 13(3)(j) of Annex 6 which provides that the Sub-Committee for TBT will track any amendments made to the WTO TBT Agreement and develop proposals to amend Annex 6 in accordance with Article 29 of the AfCFTA Agreement in order for it to remain aligned to the WTO TBT Agreement. Triennial Reviews of TBT Agreement is included in the Draft Strategic Framework for implementation of Annex that was prepared by the Senior Advisor.

It is therefore very crucial that WTO Member AfCFTA State Parties actively participate in the Ninth Triennial Review as well as subsequent Reviews so that they can influence decisions, recommendations and any amendments to the TBT Agreement that may be made during the Review. Position papers that are being prepared by the Senior Advisor are intended to be submitted by WTO Member AfCFTA State Parties to WTO TBT Committee to achieve this objective.

2.2. Monitoring discussions in WTO TBT Committee

The WTO TBT Agreement, decisions and recommendations made by WTO TBT Committee are integral part of Annex 6 and therefore it is important that the Senior Advisor monitors discussions in WTO TBT Committee including events organized by the Committee and bring to the attention of WTO Member AfCFTA State Parties important issues that require them to take position on in the Committee. This will also enable the Advisor to effectively play his advisory role on issues before the Committee.

2.3. Participation in activities and events organized by AUC, DTI, RECs and continental Institutions

In order to support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislations, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process; liaise effectively with other related programmes within the AU such as the Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT), Africa Mining Vision (AMV), Programme for

Industrial Development of Africa (PIDA), Africa Industrial Development Agenda (AIDA), Commodities Strategy and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) so as to ensure infusion of quality infrastructure principles in all developmental programmes of the African Union; and work closely with African Regional Economic Communities (RECS) and Pan Africa Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, it is important that the Senior Advisor participates in activities and events that contain TBT and Quality Infrastructure aspects organized by AUC, DTI, RECs including AU recognized continental intuitions such ARSO and AFRAC. Participation in such activities is included among the responsibilities in the Senior Advisor’s terms of reference.

3. Activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor in February 2021

Activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in February 2021 are presented in the table below.

#	Activity	Responsibilities/deliverables in Advisor’s TORs to which the activity contribute toward achievement	Remark(s)
1.	Position paper on Brazil proposals on Ninth Triennial Review (9TR).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of draft Strategic Framework for the implementation of Annex 6 of the AfCFTA and the operationalization of that framework; • Supporting efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislation, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process; and • Provide Quality Infrastructure related support to activities of the DTI-Industry Division. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activity was included in DTI Workplan for Quarter I as contribution for Quality Infrastructure to Industry Division; • The position paper was prepared and submitted to AUC on 22 February 2021; • This is the second position paper prepared by the Senior Advisor on the Ninth Triennial Review under Article 15.4 of TBT Agreement; • The objective of the position papers is to enable WTO Member State Parties to influence decisions and recommendations WTO TBT Committee will make during the Ninth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement; • The paper covers eight (8) Ninth Triennial Review proposals submitted by Brazil covering the following topics: Transparency, Conformity Assessment, and operation of WTO TBT Committee; • The paper contains proposed positions that AfCFTA State Parties can submit during WTO TBT

#	Activity	Responsibilities/deliverables in Advisor's TORs to which the activity contribute toward achievement	Remark(s)
			Committee Informal Meetings on the Ninth Triennial Review.
2.	Coordinating with PTB to organize a meeting between ANSI/USAID/Standards Alliance and PTB.	Expand existing partnerships with donors of key markets, such as the U.S. market, to address TBT-related concerns that prevent the growth of trade relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Advisor contacted PTB but copied Dr. Oswald, Ag. Director Hussein, Ag. Head Industry Division (Ms Ron Osman) and Ag. Head Trade Division (Mr. Charles Chiza) and requested PTB to propose possible dates for the meeting; • Both sides have agreed that the meeting takes place on 9 March; • Both sides have also agreed on an agenda for the meeting.
3.	WTO Secretariat Briefing Session on the TBT Triennial Review Process, 16 February 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the event to keep abreast of developments in the TBT area at international level in order to be able to effectively play an advisory role to the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC and State Parties on TBT issues. This event contributes to the implementation of a number of responsibilities and deliverables in the Senior Advisor's TORs including implementation of the draft Strategic Plan for implementation of Annex 6; • Support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislation, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The briefing was held in virtual mode on the Zoom platform; • The ongoing Ninth Triennial Review is one of the most important activities taking place in WTO TBT Committee; • The objective of the session was to help delegates to prepare for and participate fully in the ongoing Ninth Triennial Review; • The session covered: information on the Triennial Review process including background, timeline, and information resources; • Delegates were given opportunity to pose questions and seek clarification after presentation by the Secretariat; • Despite the low level of participation of most WTO Member AfCFTA State Parties in Triennial Reviews, none of them attended the briefing session.

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4.	ARSO Webinar on Standardisation and Trade under the AfCFTA Agreement, 15 February 2021.	Working closely with African RECS and Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, which are the AU recognized continental quality infrastructure agencies (i.e. AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, and ARSO) by participating in activities and events organized by RECs and PAQI institutions and or in collaboration with AUC/DTI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theme of the Webinar was Africa Trading With Itself focusing on the role of Standards and Technical Regulations in Actualizing Free Trade under the AfCFTA; • The Webinar was moderated by ARSO Secretary General; • Speakers were drawn from ARSO/CS, AUC, PAQI, EAC Secretariat, CEN/CENELEC and AfCFTA Secretariat; • The speakers made presentations covering the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The role of Standardization in the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and the strategic Mandate of ARSO under Annex 6; ○ Technical Regulations within the AfCFTA Agreement; ○ One Standard-One Test-Accepted Everywhere – Clearing the Technical Barriers to Trade under the Single African Market: The role of Pan African Quality Infrastructure; ○ TBT and SPS Policies for facilitating trade within Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Single Markets – RECs success stories in the context of EAC Experience; ○ Operating the Single European Market: Cooperation under the New Standardization Approach of 1985 and the EU legislations: Lessons from the EU and the CEN-CENELEC; and ○ Realizing the Goals of the AfCFTA Agreement through strategic partnerships: Working with

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			<p>Stakeholders and the strategic role of the AfCFTA Secretariat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Advisor made the following observations on compliance with obligations to notify technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures by AfCFTA WTO Member State Parties in WTO TBT Agreement at the Webinar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Statistics from WTO Secretariat indicate that most AfCFTA WTO Member State Parties are not complying with their obligation of notifying technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. Annex 6 to the AfCFTA Agreement requires AfCFTA State Parties to notify their technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures to AfCFTA Secretariat. For technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures adopted by AfCFTA State Parties not to become unnecessary barriers to trade under AfCFTA trade, State Parties should begin by notifying their existing technical regulations and conformity procedures to AfCFTA Secretariat. ○ Equally important is for AfCFTA State Parties to prepare proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in accordance with the transparency requirements of both WTO TBT Agreement and Annex 6 to the AfCFTA Agreement including following the principles of good regulatory practices.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The AfCFTA Secretariat should establish a mechanism for notification of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures by AfCFTA State Parties. In addition, formats for notification of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures need to be developed and adopted AfCFTA State Parties. The notification formats could be aligned to those developed by WTO TBT Committee.
5.	17 th Virtual PAQI Joint Committee Meeting, 16 February 2021.	Working closely with African RECS and Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, which are the AU recognized continental quality infrastructure agencies (i.e. AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, and ARSO) by participating in activities and events organized by RECs and PAQI institutions and or in collaboration with AUC/DTI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The meeting was opened by Mr. Hussein Hassan, Director of AUC/DTI and chaired by Dr. Celestine O. Okanya, Chairperson PAQI; ● The following were the substantive agenda for the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary of the Matters arising from the last meeting held virtually on 27th August 2020; ○ Way forward on the cassava Value Chain project Phase 2 activities; ○ PAQI Response plan to the COVID 19 pandemic and its effects – feedback from the short needs' assessment survey; ○ Highlights of the Guidelines for Accreditation Bodies; ○ Overview of the Made in Africa Qualification Criteria; ○ IATF preparation with regard to: half-day workshop on Automotive and Agribusiness industries, training SMEs on key topics; and

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			<p>○ Progress of the PTB Project on Upgrading of Quality Infrastructure in Africa.</p> <p>Meeting Resolutions:</p> <p>On proposed specific projects and programmes for an effective collaboration between the AUC and PAQI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PAQI JC noted the restructuring of the Trade and Industry department at AUC, the introduction of Quality Infrastructure (QI) Unit and the transfer of four operations to the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana; ● The PAQI Secretariat was consequently tasked to make a regular follow up on the completion of the transfer in order to establish an effective collaboration with the AfCFTA secretariat; ● PAQI JC also noted updates on the status of implementation of the 16th PAQI JC meeting resolutions and expressed their proposal to legally establish the PAQI under the newly created QI Unit under AUC DTI; ● PAQI Secretariat, henceforth, formed a task team composed of the PAQI Secretariat, PAQI Chairperson and AUC representatives to analyze the mandate of the QI Unit and propose a way forward. <p>On the cassava Value Chain Project Phase 2 activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PAQI JC appreciated the presentation made on the proposal of the Cassava Project Phase 2 and progress made so far and instructed the secretariat to link the proposed activities to the set objectives while looking forward to AFSEC contribution. <p>On PAQI Response plan to the COVID 19 pandemic and its effects – feedback</p>

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			<p>from the short needs' assessment survey – Highlights of the Guidelines for Accreditation Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAQI JC appreciated and took note of the report presented by the PAQI Chairperson on the PAQI Response plan to the COVID 19 pandemic and its effects; • PAQI JC approved the list of 15 webinar topics and 20 training topics that were identified and directed the PAQI Secretariat to develop a plan for conducting these webinars and training and where funding is needed, prepare and submit fund mobilisation documents to relevant partners. <p>On highlights of the Guidelines for Accreditation Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAQI Secretariat expressed its gratitude to PTB for their financial and technical support accorded to the development of this document; • PAQI JC adopted this document and encouraged PAQI institutions to create awareness in favour of the same. <p>On overview of the Made in Africa Qualification Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAQI JC urged PAQI Institutions to contribute to the content of this document by providing their comments where and when necessary. <p>On IATF preparation with regard to the half-day workshop on Automotive and Agribusiness industries, and training the SMEs on key topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAQI JC noted the progress of the preparation of the Intra-Africa Trade Fair (IATF 2021) planned for September 2021 and assigned the Secretariat to engage the AUC and

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			<p>AFREXIMBANK representatives in identifying and inviting suitable speakers in the workshop on automotive industry.</p> <p>On progress of the PTB Project on Upgrading of Quality Infrastructure in Africa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAQI JC noted with appreciation the updates provided by Mrs. Kathrin Wunderlich on the "Upgrading of Quality Infrastructure in Africa" project and urged PAQI Institutions to regularly ensure timely response to various call for proposals that will lead to the attainment of its goals.
6.	Trade Easier MSME Workshop, 18 February 2021.	<p>Support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislation, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process;</p> <p>Provide Quality Infrastructure related support to activities of the DTI-Industry Division.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop was held in virtual mode; The focus of the workshop was on Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs); It has been recognized that NTBs are among the main obstacles to trade between African countries; The workshop sought to raise awareness of the AfCFTA Online Mechanism for reporting, monitoring and eliminating NTBs and to equip MSMEs with the knowledge and understanding of the trade barriers platform with a view to encouraging an increase in reporting of trade barriers; The specific focus of the workshop was on: Raising awareness of the platform for reporting NTBs amongst MSMEs, including youth and female-led MSMEs; Equipping MSMEs with the knowledge to be able to report any Non-tariff barriers they face on the online reporting platform; Sharing of experiences on NTBs encountered by MSMEs; and Building relationships

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			<p>between MSMEs and NTB national focal points responsible for working with the African Union to resolve NTBs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Advisor highlighted the following during the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The importance of AfCFTA State Parties fulfilling their notification obligations to AfCFTA Secretariat to enable MSMEs to know products requirements they must comply with. This will also enable MSMEs to adjust their production processes so that they can comply with new products requirements; ○ The importance of MEMEs reviewing and submitting comments on draft TBT measures notified to AfCFTA Secretariat through their national governments.
7.	Informal Meeting of WTO TBT Committee on Ninth Triennial Review, 23 February 2021.	Development of a Proposal for a Strategic Framework for the implementation of Annex 6 of the AfCFTA and the operationalization of that framework in relation to harmonized African Ninth Triennial Review positions submitted to WTO TBT Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the timeline for the Ninth Triennial Review, the WTO TBT Committee held an informal meeting on Ninth Triennial Review on 23 February 2021; • Discussions focused on eleven proposals submitted in advance of the meeting, eight from Brazil and three from the European Union. African WTO Members can still make submissions on these proposals in subsequent Informal Meetings on 9TR; • The Senior Advisor prepared two position papers on the eleven proposals and submitted to AUC-DTI. The papers were also submitted to ANSI, USAID and AGRA; • No African WTO Members attended this meeting.

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8.	WTO TBT Committee Meeting, 24-26 February 2021.	<p>Participated in the event to keep abreast of developments in the TBT area at international level in order to be able to effectively play an advisory role to the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC and State Parties on TBT issues. This event contributes to the implementation of a number of responsibilities and deliverables in the Senior Advisor's TORs including implementation of the draft Strategic Plan for implementation of Annex 6;</p> <p>Support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislation, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regular Meeting of the Committee was preceded by an Informal Meeting dedicated to the Ninth Triennial Review on 23 February; • Attendance by African WTO Members was very low with only Angola, Egypt, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Kenya and Uganda attending the meeting. This provides evidence of the low level of participation of WTO Member State Parties in regular work of WTO TBT Committee; • A total 82 Specific Trade Concerns (STCS) were discussed in the meeting including 21 new STCs and 61 previously raised STCs; • A new STC was raised against Nigeria regarding onerous testing and conformity requirements by SGS for machinery and their parts but Nigeria was not in attendance. The STC was raised by India.

4. Challenges

Implementation of most of the work that have been done by the Senior Advisor such as the draft Strategic Framework for implementation of Annex 6; draft mechanisms to consult with the domestic and international private sector stakeholders in the development and implementation of standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, accreditation, and metrology at the continental level; etc. cannot proceed without approval by AfCFTA State Parties. This approval can only be done by the Sub-committee on TBT that is not yet operational. However, the Senior Adviser will continue to prepare documents that require approval by the Sub-committee so that approval of the documents can be prioritized once the Sub-committee is operationalized.

5. Recommendation

The Senior Advisor maintains the recommendation that arrangement be made by DTI for presentation of the work plan and proposal for a strategic framework for the implementation of Annex 6 of the AfCFTA Agreement to the AfCFTA Secretariat.

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Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining
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1. Background

The Standards Alliance (SA) recruited a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Expert/Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation to support the implementation of the TBT related commitments under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement as well as other Trading Arrangements including African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

The Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation is directly supporting the work of the Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining (ETIM) of the African Union Commission (AUC) through the AfCFTA Interim Unit/Permanent Secretariat to design and implement the mechanisms required for the implementation of the commitments under Annex 6 on TBT of the AfCFTA Agreement and strengthening of U.S. – Africa cooperation on TBT.

In order for the Senior Advisor to effectively advise the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUC and AfCFTA State Parties on TBT issues, it is important for the Advisor to keep abreast of TBT issues at regional, continental and international levels. In this respect, the Senior Advisor will continue to network with RECs, Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, WTO Secretariat and other trade-related regional, continental and international institutions to attend and participate in TBT meetings, activities and events.

In addition, as new tools are developed or enhancements to existing tools are undertaken at international level to facilitate the implementation of the TBT Agreement which is an integral part of Annex 6 to the AfCFTA Agreement, it is equally important for the Senior Advisor to bring this to the attention of RECs and State Parties and work with them to participate in piloting and implementing such tools. This will enhance the uptake and implementation of new/upgraded tools at continental, regional and State Parties levels.

This report contains details of activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in March 2021. The report was prepared in fulfilment of an obligation to submit monthly reports contained in the contract of the Senior Advisor.

2. Background to Activities undertaken in March 2021

2.1. Managing relationships with international donors that provide technical assistance on TBT and related issues

The Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation is responsible for managing relationships with international donors that provide technical assistance on TBT issues including identification of sources of potential funding for desired activities and for coordinating international activities with partners aiming at increasing effectiveness of those interventions. In this capacity, the Senior Advisor also providing management and advisory services on TBT to ETIM on the AfCFTA processes.

2.2. Participation in activities and events organized by AUC, DTI, RECs and Continental Institutions

In order to support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislations, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process; liaise effectively with other related programmes within the AU such as the Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT), Africa Mining Vision (AMV), Programme for Industrial Development of Africa (PIDA), Africa Industrial Development Agenda (AIDA), Commodities Strategy and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) so as to ensure infusion of quality infrastructure principles in all developmental programmes of the African Union; and work closely with African Regional Economic Communities (RECS) and Pan Africa Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, it is important that the Senior Advisor participates in meetings, activities and events that contain TBT and Quality Infrastructure aspects organized by AUC, DTI, RECs including AU recognized continental intuitions such ARSO and AFRAC. Participation in such activities is included among the responsibilities in the Senior Advisor's terms of reference.

3. Activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor in March 2021

The table below contains activities undertaken by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation in March 2021.

#	Activity	Responsibilities/deliverables in Advisor's TORs to which the activity contribute toward achievement	Remark(s)
I.	Coordinating organization of meeting between ANSI/USAID and PTB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing cooperation mechanisms for delivering technical assistance on standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment, accreditation, and metrology; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting was held on 9 March 2021 virtually on Webex platform;The meeting was arranged and coordinated by the Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation;The meeting was guided by the following agenda: presentation of the USAID/ANSI/Standards Alliance

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding existing partnerships with donors of key markets, such as the U.S. market, to address TBT-related concerns that prevent the growth of trade relationships. 	<p>project, presentation of the PTB AfCFTA support project, update on USAID and PTB planned support/activities to the AUC/AfCFTA Secretariat for the implementation of AfCFTA, and areas of possible collaboration between PTB and USAID/ANSI;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was attended by USAID/ANSI and PTB officials, and the three experts who have been seconded by USAID/ANSI and PTB to the AUC and AfCFTA Secretariat; USAID/ANSI gave an overview of the Standards Alliance Programme highlighting support that have been provided in Africa under the programme while PTB gave an overview of the support they have been providing on quality infrastructure in Africa that has been going on for about 10 years; The importance of good cooperation and coordination between the three experts was recognized. In this context, it was noted that virtual office is good for some work but not for building dynamics for working; On the areas for possible support, USAID/ANSI stated that Standards Alliance is the biggest programme for providing support in QI but there are other programmes designed at mission level and it is therefore important to have this conversation ongoing including having more coordination meetings; Both USAID/ANSI and PTB recognized that the AUC and AfCFTA Secretariat are responsible for managing workplans of the experts

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			and defining what they want to be addressed.
2.	Intra-African Trade Fare (IATF) 2021 Preparations - Core Team meeting, 11 March 2021.	Working closely with African RECS and Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, which are the AU recognized continental quality infrastructure agencies (i.e. AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, and ARSO) by participating in activities and events organized by RECs and PAQI institutions and or in collaboration with AUC/DTI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was convened by the PAQI Chairperson as a follow up to a resolution of the 17th PAQI JC meeting; • The objective of the meeting was to specifically discuss the planned workshop on the Importance of Conformity Assessment and training sessions during the IATF 2021; • Workshop on the Importance of Conformity Assessment in facilitating intra-African Trade in the context of the AfCFTA, 7 September 2021; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The meeting discussed a draft agenda for the workshop and identification of Speakers for each topic. • The meeting deliberated on the planned four-day Training on Labelling and Packaging targeting participants of the Fair scheduled to take place on 7-10 September 2021. Updates on the progress made on preparation of training were provided during the meeting.
3.	Communication to Ag. Director Hussein on Activities of the Industry Division January-March 2021, 15 March 2021.	Support efforts to bring quality infrastructure components, trade policy, legislation, regulations, and production methods into compliance with international obligations, and strengthen TBT regulatory infrastructure in the AU and AfCFTA implementation process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of a meeting held on 9 December 2020 with PTB Chaired by Ag. Director Hussein in which the Senior Advisor presented his workplan, the Ag. Director directed the Senior Advisor to prepare a way forward on the Draft Strategic Framework for implementation of Annex 6 to the AfCFTA Agreement; • In the communication, I included presentation of the Draft to DTI (now ETIM) and AfCFTA Secretariat in the way forward; • I also included presentation of the Draft as Quality Infrastructure Input to Activities of the Industry Division for January-March 2021. The Draft should have been presented to AUC DTI in January and AfCFTA Secretariat in February;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I inquired from Ag. Director on the internal procedures I should follow to initiate the process of presenting the Draft Strategic Framework to AUC DTI and AfCFTA Secretariat; • The Senior Advisor has not yet received feedback from the Ag. Director to-date.
4.	Departmental Staff Meeting - Commission of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, 16 March 2021.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was convened and chaired by the re-elected Commissioner Albert Muchanga; • The following were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Commissioner outlined his Vision, Expectation and Performance Standards for his contract period 15 March 2021 - 15 March 2025 ○ He also enumerated four Key Areas of Focus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribution to the implementation of the AU Reform Agenda; 2. Contribution to Africa's economic recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic; 3. Breaking the vicious circle of Africa's poverty and underdevelopment anchored on developing internal capabilities in technology and innovation to transition the Continent towards high value added exports; 4. Domestic resources mobilization. ○ The Commissioner also outline a 100 Days Agenda covering the period 15 March – 22 June 2021 that was the focus of the meeting. ○ Creating ETIM Group on WhatsApp; ○ Creating a Departmental Directory; ○ Departmental Work Plan 2021 and budget - by 19 March;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft Departmental Work Plan 2022 and budget - by 19 March; ○ Briefing on the status of preparations for the 2021 Mid-Year Coordination Summit: two tech meetings, questionnaire submitted to RECs, started receiving inputs from RECs; ○ Preparations for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade and Economic Matters; tentative date to be proposed by Ag. Director Hussein working together with the other Director; ○ Briefing on the status of preparations for the 2021 Integration Day Commemoration; ○ Preparations for the next meetings of the Specialized Technical Committee of Ministers of Finance, Monetary Affairs; Economic Planning and Integration and Specialized Technical Committee of Ministers of Trade, Industry and Minerals. <p>Issues for noting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DTI changed to Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining – acronym ETIM. Mining is expected to become minerals; 2. AfCFTA Unit transferred to AfCFTA Secretariat; 3. Since joining AUC, the Senior Advisor has not yet been formally introduced by the Ag. Director to the AfCFTA Unit & Secretariat.
5.	ARSO Webinar on Consumers Voice in Standardisation & Benefits from Trade under the AfCFTA Agreement, 17 March 2021.	Working closely with African RECS and Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, which are the AU recognized continental quality infrastructure agencies (i.e. AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, and ARSO) by participating in activities and events organized by RECs and PAQI institutions and	<p>The following presentations were made during the webinar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The AfCFTA Agreement benefits all Africa from Cairo to Cape town, from Dakar to Dar es Salaam: Buy Africa and Build Africa for sustainable African Industrialisation by Dr. Francis Mangeni, Head of Trade Promotion and Programs – AfCFTA Secretariat; ● Producing locally and trading globally: Strengthening Policies and regulations

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		or in collaboration with AUC/DTI.	<p>that prioritise the production, competitiveness and trade in Made in Africa Products – Role of the Private Sector as a Key Stakeholder within the AfCFTA by Serge Kamuhinda, CEO of Volkswagen Mobility Solutions Rwanda, Rwanda;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers, the missing link in standardization and promotion of Quality Culture in Africa: Making the Consumers Count – The Role of the ARSO COCO by KIMERA Henry Richard, ARSO COCO Chairman; and • Consumers Voice matter in Standardisation and International Trade – International standardisation Best Practices for safeguarding Consumers Interests and rights – Lessons from ISO/COPOLCO by Ms. Sadie Dainton, BSI Consumer Policy Manager, BSI & the Vice-Chair of ISO/COPOLCO. <p><i>The Senior Advisor for TBT Cooperation highlighted the importance of ensuring consumers' health and safety under the AfCFTA trading arrangement.</i></p>
6.	Placement of the Senior Advisor within AUC new structure due to the recent restructuring at AUC and transfer of the AfCFTA Unit to AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana.	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the restructuring of the AUC, I sent an email on 19 March to Ag. Head Trade Division on this issue and inquired where my position will be placed within the new structure; • He responded that Ag. Director Hussein was aware about this issue and informed me that the Ag. Director will reach to me on the issue; • Ag. Director Hussein contacted me by email and advised me to prepare a draft memo to be addressed to the Chairperson of AUC to be signed by the commissioner; • He guided that I should mention in the Memo the re-structuring done at AUC and transfer of AfCFTA Unit to AfCFTA Secretariat and conclude the memo by requesting the approval of transferring me to the AfCFTA Secretariat;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I drafted the memo and submitted to Ag. Director Hussein on 26 March 2021 for further processing.
7.	Meeting on Made in Africa — Requirements for qualification and guidance for implementation, 31 March 2021	Working closely with African RECS and Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) institutions, which are the AU recognized continental quality infrastructure agencies (i.e. AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, and ARSO) by participating in activities and events organized by RECs and PAQI institutions and or in collaboration with AUC/DTI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invited by PAQI Secretariat to participate in discussing the Working Draft African Standard, WD-ARS MiA:2021, Made in Africa — Requirements for qualification and guidance for implementation; Contains criteria to be used to quality goods and services as made in Africa. <p>Issues for noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political leaders made the decision that products produced in Africa should bear the label “Made in Africa”; However, it was noted that the label, “Made in Africa” may not attract investment; It was agreed that the label “Make in Africa” may attract investors and at technical level, the standard should contain this phrase.