

Sculpture «Non-Violence» by the artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd. UN Photo/Pernaca Sudhakaran



MARCH 2020 EDITION

## Creating professional opportunities to silence the guns

By Ibrahim Mayaki

In the aftermath of the 33rd African Union Summit on the theme “Silencing the guns”, we reaffirm AUDA-NEPAD’s role in peacekeeping in the name of economic and social development.

When Agenda 2063 was published, we had set a deadline of 2020 for the silence of arms. Once this dramatic observation has been made, we must draw the consequences and take the measure of what we must change or improve in order to guarantee peace and security for all Africans, which is an indispensable prerequisite for the development of our continent.

Our vigilance is unremitting so as not to leave any room for the proliferation of weapons. We must continue to reject violence and conflict. To this end, mechanisms for diplomatic cooperation and conflict resolution must be favoured, in line with the logic of “African solutions to African problems”.

Fighting the symptoms, certainly, but we also need to treat the root cause of the disease. And to achieve this, we will need to accelerate and amplify Africa’s economic and social development. The reforms undertaken are intended to be replicated and extended across the continent to meet basic human needs, including education, health, sanitation, food security, housing, drinking water and energy. The AU, the RECs and Member States have the primary responsibility for implementing development policies and programmes aimed at integrating the continent and having a positive impact on the livelihoods and well-being of all Africans, especially the youngest.

“We will continue to promote peace through job creation, through initial and vocational training in both urban and rural areas”

Thus, AUDA-NEPAD focuses on vocational training and entrepreneurship for women and youth by supporting the integration and alignment of TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) in the national qualification frameworks of fifteen countries, from South Africa to Tunisia, Benin and Sierra Leone. The Agency is also involved in capacity building in the agricultural sector of twelve CAADP countries TVET. The EFPTA (Technical and Vocational Agricultural Education and Training) programme for women is already fully operational in six countries.

With the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) programme in seven countries, we are supporting the empowerment and skills development of young people. National action plans for rural youth employment and entrepreneurship have been developed and validated in Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and Niger.

The 100,000 SMEs for 1 million jobs programme also aim to create opportunities for 1 million young people by 2021. Recommendations have been made to encourage initiatives to accelerate the reforms needed to improve the business environment and promote youth entrepreneurship.

Clearly, on a continental scale, these programmes are necessary but not sufficient. We will continue to promote peace through job creation, through initial and vocational training in both urban and rural areas, through the development of the health sector, through the protection of nature and the fight against global warming and its consequences in terms of population displacements, through the interconnection of countries and regions to facilitate trade and thus openness to others. We will continue to build and rebuild bridges and roads between peoples, where others are destroying everything in their path. ■

 [READ ONLINE VERSION](#)

# Food Safety in Africa: An Important Deliverable for AUDA-NEPAD

Africa's development priorities are spelled out in Agenda 2063—the blueprint for the African Union's economic development in the coming decades. Specifically, Agenda 2063 identifies agricultural development as a high priority, as detailed in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). This is further elaborated in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

The Malabo Declaration (June 2014) specifies seven key commitments, including one on Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services. Further advanced by the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in March 2018, these commitments seek to harness market and trade opportunities locally, regionally, and internationally.

While there is demonstrated political will to expand intra-regional trade, African countries face several challenges to achieving this objective. Significant progress is ongoing towards reaching regional integration, which has contributed to reductions in tariffs. However, the application of non-tariff measures, such as Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, remain a major impediment to effective trade. SPS measures are the foundation for domestic consumer health and safe trade, as they have the critical function of protecting countries from risks to public health and to animal and plant life and health.

Weak capacities to enforce SPS measures can result in increased illness from foodborne disease as well as a country's exclusion from key markets, and poorly applied procedures can result in unnecessary costs, creating inefficiencies in the trading system.



To address some of the health and trade challenges faced by Africa, the African Union Commission, with the support of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, made a presentation to Member States' Ministers during their Second Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of October 2017. The presentation underscored the negative effects that mycotoxins, metals and other contaminants pose on human and animal health and constituted a proposal to establish a Continental Food Safety Reference Laboratory. The Ministers endorsed the proposal and requested the AUC to develop a continental Sanitary and Phytosanitary Policy Framework to facilitate harmonisation of AU Member States' SPS policy in general and to inform the establishment of the Pan African Food Safety Laboratory in particular.

It is within the SPS Framework that the AUDA-NEPAD Food Safety Initiative is currently reviewing Guidelines for Harmonising Regional Food Safety Standards and Legislations across the continent. The Agency is driving the assessment and prioritisation of food safety issues that require urgent interventions. In addition, AUDA-NEPAD is assessing the strengths and weaknesses of institutions in the development, adaptation, harmonisation and enforcement of food safety legislations and standards in the Regional Economic Communities and within countries.

The proposed continental harmonisation of food safety and quality legislations promises recurring benefits of enhanced safety and quality of food, compliance with appropriate standards and access to international, continental and intraregional trade. ■

# The Global Dilemma of Illicit Financial Flows: Time for Collective Action

By Seleman Yusuph Kitenge

Illicit financial flows (IFFs) has become a serious global threat to the attainment of the global development agenda. This has led the President of the United Nations General Assembly (PGA), Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, and the President of ECOSOC, Mona Juul to announce the high-level panel on international financial accountability, transparency, and integrity (FACTI) as a means to address this challenge that inhibits financing for Sustainable Development Goals.

It should be noted that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are critical for the prosperity of people around the globe in the context of social, political and economic development aspects. However, the achievement of this global development agenda highly depends on the United Nations Member States' capacity to mobilise resources to support and implement different development initiatives that target to achieve the Agenda 2030.

This is reiterated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, where it is stated that, "[...] for all countries, public policies and the mobilisation and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to our common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the sustainable development goals." However, regardless of this fundamental commitment towards the SDGs success, still, most countries lag in terms of domestic resource mobilisation capacity.

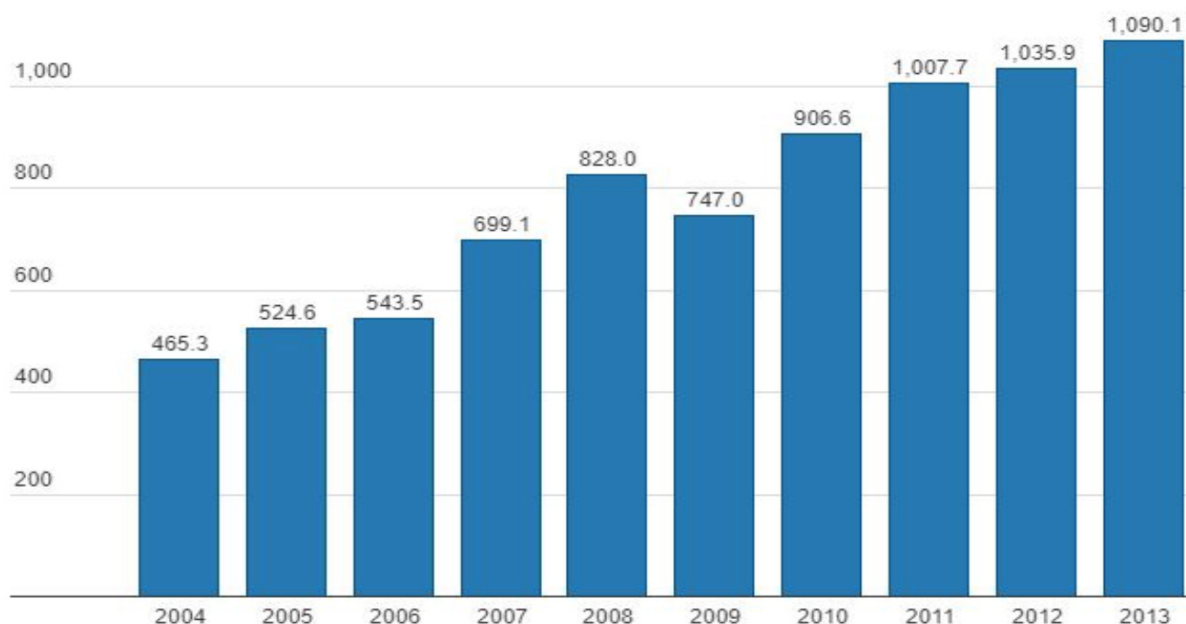
This hinders the States' ability to secure financing for development due to insufficient public resources caused by loopholes in the national tax systems that prevent effective revenue collection. These loopholes that trigger illegal financial transaction practices and undermining domestic revenues are 'corruption, tax avoidance, and tax evasion' which in one way or the other lead to illicit financial flows (IFFs).



It is indicated by OECD that, in 2015, African countries as a whole had a total tax revenue to GDP ratio of around 19%, with Latin America and Asia averaging at around 22% and 15% respectively, compared to around 34% for OECD member countries. OECD pointed out that a variety of factors affect countries' ability to generate tax revenues, including the presence of large informal and subsistence sectors, narrow tax bases, and dependence on volatile export commodities. Moreover, Global Financial Integrity (GFI) estimates that in 2013 developing countries lost the US \$ 1.1 trillion through IFFs. GFI further highlights that this estimate is highly conservative as it overlooked movements of bulk cash, the mispricing of services, or many types of money laundering. The GFI research propounds that about 45% of illicit flows end up in offshore financial centers, and 55% in developed countries.

Therefore, the interconnectedness of the flow of funds concerning IFFs from developing to developed countries where most of the stolen funds and assets are hidden signal the alarm of why this is a global plight that requires collective global efforts and actions. That being the case, the promotion of a strong international system architecture that is ready to combat and fully eliminate the problem is of prime importance. This should include deliberate efforts directed towards bridging the gaps or shortcomings of the existing international system architecture put in place by the United Nations and other regional bodies to fully be able to counter the predicament of IFFs which incapacitate states' to mobilize domestic resources needed to financing for development agenda. ■

**Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries:2004-2013**  
(in billions of U.S. dollars, nominal)



Source: Global Financial Integrity

 [READ ONLINE VERSION](#)

# Giving ourselves a chance to make AfCFTA a success

By Ibrahim Mayaki



AUDA-NEPAD and Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures (University of Denver) jointly publish a study on the conditions for successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. Here are the main findings.

Since the creation of the Continental African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) endorsed at the African Union Summit in Niamey on July 7, 2019, we have been pushing forward the idea that a common market for and by Africans is possible and create a single market for goods and services to facilitate the free movement of people and investments and lay the foundations for a continental customs union. We continue to promote this economic integration among Heads of State and Government, emphasizing the sharing of economic benefits over historical rivalries and relative gains.

This study is part of this process. It provides an overview of all the local and international challenges likely to increase or hinder the implementation of

the agreement. It thus enlightens African decision-makers by providing them with objective figures to guide them in their decision-making. For the prerequisite for the implementation of the AfCFTA remains the political will to advance intracontinental trade relations. This will require stakeholders to coordinate and harmonize trade policies at the national, regional, continental and global levels.

## Rethinking government revenue sources

The AfCFTA calls for the elimination of 90 per cent of tariffs on intra-African trade, which for some countries dependent on these taxes could represent a drop-in government revenue and thus an obstacle to the success of the agreement. However, according to data from the study, intra-African tariffs are low relative to tariffs between Africa and the rest of the world. About 1.5 per cent of Africa's GDP or \$37 billion comes from tariffs on imports from the rest of the world. In comparison, tariff revenue from intra-African trade represents only 0.1 per cent of African

GDP in 2015 or \$3.5 billion. Thus, the implementation of the AfCFTA will have a limited negative effect on government revenue at the continental level.

“Conditions for the success of AfCFTA also include reducing non-tariff barriers to trade, such as poor governance, lack of infrastructure and border crossings, and the prevalence of informal trade”

#### Capacity building and support for the most fragile states

In addition to customs duties, the entire taxation system will have to be harmonised, particularly VAT. Many countries are unable to manage these new standards. Rigorous training of customs union officials and capacity building in each Member State are essential. For the least developed States, more direct assistance in the form of training sessions, economic assistance and guided institutional development will need to be provided by AfCFTA and partner organizations (Assembly of the African Union, twelfth special session, 2019). The study emphasizes that the success of VAT control will depend on reducing the levels of corruption associated with revenue taxes among government elites.

#### Tackling non-tariff barriers

Conditions for the success of AfCFTA also include reducing non-tariff barriers to trade, such as poor governance, lack of infrastructure and border crossings, and the prevalence of informal trade; diversifying exports for intra-African trade, including by increasing local manufacturing production; and strengthening the monitoring of cross-border flows of goods and services.

#### Reducing costs as part of the AfCFTA

To ease tensions within the AfCFTA, the study calls for the creation of a dispute settlement mechanism to resolve issues between member states. It also suggests exploring an African Union Development Fund that could support countries experiencing social upheaval due to increased trade openness by investing in human capital, infrastructure and improved governance.

Thus, the removal of all these barriers to trade, good governance and the development of infrastructure, including information and communication technologies, are essential conditions for the success of the AfCFTA. With this in mind, AUDA-NEPAD will ensure that all resources are mobilized so that the signatory states can make this immense project a real opportunity for growth for all Africans. ■

[The report can be accessed here](#)

 [READ ONLINE VERSION](#)

# Update on the Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme: Focus on Malawi

The Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) of the AUDA-NEPAD was designed to facilitate the implementation of regional and country level interventions to empower rural women and in particular smallholder women farmers to enhance their resilience so that they can better cope with the potential adverse impacts of climate change and enhance women's economic empowerment and participation in the agriculture sector. The programme is being implemented in the five participating countries of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda.

Through Norad's support, the GCCASP has undergone various phases of planning and implementation. GCCASP implementation is categorised into four main intervention areas which essentially constitute separate, but interrelated, sub-programmes namely:

- (i) Closing policy and institutional gaps
- (ii) Capacity building of women smallholder farmers
- (iii) Creation and strengthening of women platforms and
- (iv) Investments in up-scaling of successful and innovative practices.

As part of closing policy and institutional gaps, the implementation of the programme commenced in 2016 with the establishment of the national Partnership Platforms at country level. GCCASP PPs are open-ended, multi-stakeholder forums for those involved in the areas of gender empowerment, climate change and agriculture for enhanced implementation of the programme. Partnership Platforms' stakeholders include government agencies, NGOs, civil society organisations, women farmer groups and women farmers, higher learning institutions (academics), development partners, private sector, UN Agencies, Embassies and renowned individuals.

Each national Partnership Platform is chaired by a representative of the Gender Ministry in all the five participating countries. It should be noted that the GCCASP as a programme is hosted by the Ministries of Women/Gender in all the participating countries.

Currently, Malawi executed various projects on the ground in terms of capacity building of women farmers (prioritised trainings) and projects on Climate Smart Agriculture technologies and practices. It is worth noting that selected four NGOs implemented the activities in two districts of Rumphu and Machinga.

The results from implementation were very successful although coupled with a few challenges that will be worked on as Malawi continues to execute the activities of the GCCASP Programme. One of the critical challenges was that there was limited funding that limited the number districts targeted for implementation as well as the number of beneficiaries. Nonetheless, it is important to note that discussions around enhancing implementation of the GCCASP are best deliberated on at the GCCASP National Partnership Platforms.

It is against this backdrop that the AUDA-NEPAD supported the organisation of the 3rd Malawi National Partnership Platform to enhance innovative thinking towards progressive and successful implementation of the GCCASP Programme for much more impactful results on the ground.

The main objective of the 3rd Partnership Platform for Malawi, held this month (on 10-12 March), was to advance on the next generation of GCCASP implementation in the country. Specifically, focus was on designing and spearheading the establishment of GCCASP Enterprise Development Centre as a strategy for achieving concrete, impactful and sustainable results of the programme.



The following are among the key outcomes of the Malawi GCCASP 3rd Partnership Platform meeting:

1. Unwavering Government buy-in and commitment to support the establishment of the Malawi Enterprise Development Centre (EDC).
2. The EDC will have to adopt a hybrid model comprising Government, private sector and the community.
3. The Government through the host Ministry, the Ministry of Gender Children Disability and Social Welfare is committed to taking a leadership role in the establishment of the GCCASP EDC and will conduct an assessment of five centres including Small Medium Enterprise Development Institute (SMEDI) which was present in the meeting in order to identify suitable premises for the GCCASP EDC.
4. Other Ministries and partners also committed to supporting the course including UN Women (Malawi) through the framework of the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIP).
5. Resource mobilization activities are to be done at AUDA-NEPAD level and domestic level by the Government ■

 [READ ONLINE VERSION](#)

## Featured Numbers in this month's issue of Habari



The number of countries where AUDA-NEPAD focuses on vocational training and entrepreneurship for women and youth by supporting the integration and alignment of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in their national qualification frameworks.

90%

The African Continental Free Trade Area calls for the elimination of 90 percent of tariffs on intra-African trade. The start of trading under the AfCFTA Agreement will be on 1 July 2020.

\$ 1.1  
Trillion

Global Financial Integrity estimates that in 2013 developing countries lost the US \$ 1.1 trillion through illicit financial flows.

### **African Union Development Agency - NEPAD**

230 15th Road, Randjespark, Midrand - South Africa

+27 11 256 3600

[info@nepad.org](mailto:info@nepad.org) | [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

