

Virtual Tana Forum Side Event**Towards the Pan-African Dream? African Feminist Considerations for the AfCFTA****FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER****13:45 - 14:45 (GMT+3)****Concept Note****I. Introduction**

This session will explore the question of what kind of Pan-Africanism the AfCFTA is pursuing. It will then look specifically at what the AfCFTA is trying to achieve in terms of intra-continental trade expansion and what that means for women beyond gender equality but also in terms of women's economic rights and broader economic justice. A feminist analysis of what the wider implications are for macroeconomic policy as a result of the AfCFTA will also be presented, followed by recommendations for feminist engagement. This will be done through the presentation of a new FEMNET policy paper on the same presented by researcher – Fatimah Kelleher with a panel of respondents.

II. Background

The year 2019 brought positive outcomes at the African Union (AU). The most noteworthy was the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 30 May 2019. The instrument establishes what is set to become the largest free trade area since the creation of the World Trade Organization. This instrument is not only one of the most important results of African States' determination to strengthen their economic relationship in furtherance of the project for an African Economic Community (AEC) as launched by the Abuja Treaty (1994); but it also lays a solid legal-economic ground for the implementation of the aspirations of AU's Agenda 2063 for a continental market in furtherance of the Africa's socio-economic development. Trade is a crucial area for women and requires states to acknowledge that 'inclusive trade policies can contribute to advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment, which has a positive impact on economic growth and helps to reduce poverty'.

III. Rationale

This session will introduce and expound on the importance of women's rights in trade policy and what the AfCFTA means for African women. ^[1]Trade is known to enhance economic wellbeing...Yet, the gains from trade are not evenly distributed among the population. Women are a particularly vulnerable group when it comes to this uneven distribution. The session will further delve into the discourse of Agriconomy, women in informal cross-border trade, gender and value chain analysis and the inclusion of women needed to promote the aim and objectives of the AfCFTA. The AfCFTA agreement has high potential to boost industrialization and position Africa as a regional giant in trade through the creation of regional value chains and improved agro-processing. However, for this to be a success women's inclusion and participation is essential in its implementation.



Tana High-Level Forum
on Security in Africa



I.

Objectives

The objective of the session is to increase research, knowledge generation, and availability of evidence on Africa's inequalities, trade policies to respect, protect, and fulfil women's economic rights- The panel will present the collective views of African feminists in the macroeconomics space on the links between gender equality and trade policy. In addition, they will also address key questions, concerns and policy recommendations while providing reference to the African feminist charter. While focusing on the AfCFTA, the panel will further look into trade liberalization and their impacts on equitable development. The main purpose is to highlight the relevance of integrating gender perspectives in trade policy and discuss the implications of African women's economic empowerment on trade and economic growth through a gender lens.

IV. Expected Outcomes

- Assert pressure on African and global leaderships through advocacy and public policy reform engagements resulting in a reduction of inequalities in trade.
- Agenda of feminist trade policy popularized through knowledge generation enhancing movement building of feminist economies.



TANA FORUM
SECRETARIAT

+251 (1) 11 245 660
tanaforum@ipss-addis.org
www.tanaforum.org

Addis Ababa University
P. O. Box: 1176
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia