

Centre for Global Finance Seminar Series

SOAS University of London and ODI

<https://www.centreforglobalfinance.org/>

Wednesday 8 June 2022, 13:00-15:00 (GMT)

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The African Continental Free Trade Area and Foreign Direct Investment

This online seminar will discuss the African Continental Free Trade Area and the links with foreign direct investment. Start of trading under AfCFTA began on 1 January 2021 but some negotiations are still to be finalised. In particular, negotiations on the AfCFTA Investment Protocol are due to finish by November 2022.

Trade and investment provisions in AfCFTA have the potential to provide a more stable and attractive policy framework that can attract additional and higher quality investment to Africa. This workshop will discuss which provisions matter for investors and why, with an application to UK FDI in Africa, bearing in mind the overall objective of raising overall investment in Africa that can help to transform African economies. It will also provide country level cases of the possible implication of AfCFTA investment provisions for country level investment framework and the ability to attract more investment based on the work of ODI's Supporting Investment and Trade in Africa Programme.

The seminar will start with a number of high-level remarks, from a variety of perspectives, on the relevance of AfCFTA for attracting more and higher quality investment, followed by a discussion of new analysis on the topic led by Professor Dirk Willem te Velde, and country level reflections (especially Ethiopia and Kenya). The seminar will also include a Q&A moderated by Professor Victor Murinde.

Provisional Programme

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Chair	<i>Victor Murinde</i> Director of Centre for Global Finance, SOAS
13:00 - 13:30	Opening remarks (5 minutes each)
	<i>Vera Songwe (tbc)</i> Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa
	<i>Professor Faizal Ismail</i> Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town
	<i>Trudi Hartzenberg</i> Executive Director, t r a l a c - Trade Law Centre
	<i>Andrew Skipper, MBE</i> Chair of Africa Practice, Hogan Lovells and co-chair of UK government's Africa Investors Group
<i>Jonathan Rosenthal (tbc)</i> Africa editor, Economist	
13:30 - 13:50	Remarks on research
	<i>Dirk Willem te Velde</i> Professor of Practice, SOAS Principal Research Fellow and Director for International Economic Development, ODI Remarks based on ongoing research
13:50- 14:20	Country level reflections on AfCFTA and Investment
	Martha Belete (University of Addis Ababa)– AfCFTA and Investment in Ethiopia
	Sherillyn Raga (ODI) – AfCFTA and Investment in Kenya
Hannah Ryder (tbc, CEO of Development Reimagined) – AfCFTA Chinese investment in Africa	
14:20 - 15:00	Q&A and Closing Remarks
	<i>Victor Murinde</i> Director of Centre for Global Finance, SOAS