



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Workshop

“Pursuit for Sustained Growth and Trade Expansion”

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 EAC Headquarters - Arusha, Tanzania



## The Workshop's Programme





**Hon. Dr. Doto BITEKO, (MP)**  
Deputy Prime Minister of the United  
Republic of Tanzania and Minister of Energy

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**Guest of Honor**



**Dr. Donald MMARI**  
REPOA Executive  
Director

### Welcoming remarks from REPOA

Dr. Donald Mmari is an economist and currently the Executive Director of REPOA - with vast experience in development policy analysis, socio-economic research, and institutional development. He holds a PhD from the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, an MBA from the University of Oregon and an MA (Economics) from the University of Dar es Salaam. He has been actively involved in the preparation of national development policies, including National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty, the Natural Gas Policy of Tanzania in 2012 and the Second Five Year Development Plan in 2015/16. He has published articles, working papers, policy briefs, and research reports on the extractives sector, manufacturing, governance, social protection, and on export competitiveness of agricultural commodities. He has actively engaged in the preparation of Tanzania Poverty and Human Development reports from 2001 to 2011. Dr. Mmari has an immense economic policy and management experience accumulated over the years of his various positions within REPOA and outside, and membership in the Board of Directors of public entities.



**H.E. Alex Obatre**  
Clerk of EALA.

### Welcoming Remarks from the Host

H.E Alex Lumumba Obatre, from Uganda's Arua district, is the Clerk of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). With over 23 years of experience in parliamentary service at national, regional, and international levels, his career began in 1999 as Clerk Assistant in Uganda's Parliament. He joined EALA in 2007, rising to Deputy Clerk in 2009 and substantive Clerk in 2022. Obatre holds degrees in Public Policy and Management, Human Rights, Project Planning, and Social Sciences. A seasoned parliamentary administrator, he has attended extensive training in parliamentary practices, finance, and management, and is active in representing EALA at strategic meetings. Holds a Master of Science Degree in Public Policy and Management (University of London), Master of Arts Degree in Human Rights (MUK), Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management (IUIU), Bachelor and Degree in Social Sciences (MUK).



**Ms, Annette  
SSEMUWEMBA**  
EAC Deputy  
Secretary-General  
Trade, Customs &  
Monetary Affairs

### Welcoming Remarks from the Host

Ms. Annette Mutaawe Ssemuwemba is the Deputy Secretary General in Charge of Customs, Trade, and Monetary Affairs at the East African Community Secretariat. With an extensive career, she has held several high-level positions, including leading trade capacity building for LDCs at the Enhanced Integrated Framework, enhancing sustainable export competitiveness. At TradeMark East Africa, she managed a \$540 million portfolio across seven countries. Her contributions include customs union development and trade policy implementation. She holds an MBA and a bachelor's degree in economics from Makerere University, along with certifications from Yale and Harvard.

## Remarks from Other Collaborating Institutions



**Elibariki SHAMMY**  
Country Director-  
TradeMark Africa  
(TMA) Tanzania  
Country Programme

Mr. Elibariki Shammy, currently the Country Director for TradeMark Africa (TMA) in Tanzania, has over a decade of experience in trade development. Known for his leadership in donor-funded programs across East Africa, he previously served as Chief of Party at TetraTech, leading USAID's Feed the Future Tanzania Private Sector Strengthening Activity. At TMA, he has been instrumental in implementing trade facilitation projects, including constructing One Stop Border Posts, which reduced crossing times by 75%. He has developed systems like the Tanzania Commodity Exchange and supported the National Trade Policy review. Shammy also enhanced export processes and championed the Export Capability Project, boosting Tanzanian horticultural exports. His career includes roles as National Coordinator of Non-Tariff Barriers and Trade Officer, with a Master's in International Trade from the University of Dar es Salaam. His initiatives have focused on fostering private sector growth, policy reforms, and empowering women traders within the East African Community.



**Dr. Jacqueline MKINDI**  
Chief Executive  
Officer  
Tanzania  
Horticultural  
Association (TAHA)

Jacqueline Mkindi, CEO of TAHA and Chairperson of TAHA Commercial Companies, is a Development Manager specialising in Agriculture Business and Trade. She has significantly shaped Tanzania's horticultural industry, fostering multimillion-dollar growth through strategic partnerships with government and international organisations, including USAID, EU, UNDP, ITC, and multiple European governments. Her work spans various trade facilitation forums such as EAC, DC, ECOWAS, and the EU. Jacqueline also serves on advisory boards, including the Agriculture Council of Tanzania and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation. She represents Tanzania on the Consultative Committee of the Common Fund for Commodities and the International Steering Committee of Food and Forest Development Finland. A Certified Director, she's won numerous awards for her impactful contributions to Tanzanian agriculture.



**Abdulmajid NSEKELA**  
Chief Executive Officer  
CRDB Bank Plc

Abdulmajid Mussa Nsekela is a seasoned banker with over 20 years of experience in East African investment, business, retail, and private banking. Currently the Group CEO and Managing Director of CRDB Bank Plc, he has a track record of strategic leadership, business turnaround, and financial innovation. Previously, he transformed the Retail Banking division at NMB Bank by implementing a scalable distribution model, expanding the bank's network with the NMB Wakala agency banking system, and advancing digital banking across Tanzania. Since re-joining CRDB Bank as a CEO in 2018 - where he began his career in 1997 as a Bank Officer, he has driven profitability through strategic reforms, achieving an 87% profit increase in 2019. Passionate about financial inclusion, he launched CRDB Bank's SHE Initiative, empowering women with business skills. Nsekela also chairs the Tanzania Bankers Association and holds leadership roles on the Tanzania National Business Council and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation. He holds advanced banking and business degrees from Birmingham University and the Institute of Finance Management, Tanzania.



**H.E. Tone TINNES**  
Ambassador of  
Norway to Tanzania  
& EAC

## Remarks from REPOA's Core Partners

H.E. Tinnes was posted to Tanzania as a Norwegian Ambassador in August 2023. She served as the Norwegian Ambassador to South Sudan from 2014 to 2016 and as the Ambassador to Myanmar from 2016 to 2020. Tone Tinnes has held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has worked on foreign policy as well as development policy. Tinnes holds a master's degree in Economics from the University of Oslo.



**Prof. Rwekaza  
MUKANDALA**  
Board Chairperson –  
REPOA

## Welcoming the Minister

Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala is the Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere Professor of Pan-African Studies and a Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Dar es Salaam, served as the Vice Chancellor from 2006 to 2017. He holds degrees from the University of Dar es Salaam and a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley where he was awarded a distinguished Peter Odegard Prize. He has an impressive academic and leadership background, having chaired various institutions, served as President of the African Association of Political Science, and authored numerous publications. During his tenure as Vice Chancellor, he transformed the University into a hub of intellectual excellence.



**Hon. Dr. Selemani  
JAFO**  
Minister of Industry  
and Trade

## Welcoming the Guest of Honour

Hon. Dr. Selemani Saidi Jafo, is currently the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office for Environment and Union Matters. He holds a PhD from the University of Dodoma, a Master's in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Bachelor's in Home Economics and Human Nutrition from Sokoine University of Agriculture. Dr. Jafo has a long political career, serving as Member of Parliament for Kisarawe Constituency since 2010 and holding various ministerial roles, including Deputy Minister and Minister of State in the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government. He has also been involved with the SADC Parliamentary Forum and has held leadership roles within the CCM party. His previous roles include positions at Plan International and as an Agriculture Officer at Kisarawe District Council. Dr. Jafo is married and has dedicated his career to public service and development initiatives.

## DAY 01 KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



**H.E. Veronica  
NDUVA**  
EAC  
Secretary-General

### Keynote Address 1

H.E. Veronica M. Nduva serves as the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), acting as the Principal Executive Officer and Secretary to the Summit of EAC Heads of State. She oversees EAC institutions and coordinates the EAC Council of Ministers meetings. Appointed on June 7, 2024, Ms. Nduva previously held senior roles in Kenya's government, including as Principal Secretary for the State Department for Performance and Delivery Management and later for Gender and Affirmative Action. With 24 years in public service, she has extensive experience in governance, inter-agency collaborations, and policy development, such as contributing to Kenya's Constitution and Human Rights Action Plan. Ms. Nduva holds a Master's in Communication and a Bachelor's in Political Science from the University of Nairobi.



**Trudy  
HARTZENBERG**  
TRALAC Chief  
Executive Officer

### Keynote Address 2

Trudi Hartzenberg is the Executive Director of TRALAC. Her Keynote Statement will focus on the African-wide integration into the global value and supply chains, also factoring in the continental integration opportunities of the AfCFTA. She has a special interest in trade-related capacity building. Her research areas include trade policy issues, regional integration, investment, industrial and competition policy. The Trade Law Centre NPC (TRALAC) is an independent, capacity-building think tank. Established in 2001, TRALAC is a non-profit organization, registered in South Africa. TRALAC builds trade-related capacity in Africa; assisting countries to improve trade governance and inclusive policy processes to ensure that trade contributes to sustainable development outcomes. It assists countries in the region to produce tradables competitively, enhance their trade performance and ensure trade contributes to development within a rules-based system of international trade governance.



**Junior LODGE**  
Assistant Secretary-  
General,  
Department  
of Sustainable  
Economic  
Transformation and  
Trade (SETT); The  
Organization of  
African, Caribbean  
and Pacific States  
(OACPS)

### Keynote Address 3

Mr. Junior LODGE, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Sustainable Economic Transformation and Trade (SETT). His Keynote Statement will focus on the best trade partnership practice and lessons that SSA countries can benefit from the Caribbean and Pacific best cases. Comprised of 79 Member States from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) strives to achieve the sustainable development of its Members and their progressive integration into the world economy.

The Department of Structural Economic Development and Trade (SETT) coordinates the Secretariat's activities in the areas of sustainable economic development, with a focus on trade and trade-related issues such as commodities and value chain development, customs cooperation, market access and WTO negotiations. It undertakes and ensures the follow-up of activities in the areas of investment promotion and private sector development.

## DAY 01 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION



**Geoffrey KIRENGA**  
Chief Executive  
Director  
Southern Agricultural  
Growth Corridor of  
Tanzania (SAGCOT)

### Vote of Thanks

Geoffrey Kirenga has been the Chief Executive Officer for SAGCOT Centre Ltd. since 2013. He holds an MSc. in Entomology from the Imperial College of the University of London and has a wealth of experience in East African agriculture value chains. He is the former Director of the Crop Development Division at the Tanzania Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives. Prior to this position, Kirenga specialised in crop promotion services, pest management and plant protection. Kirenga has an extensive network in both the Tanzanian and international agriculture and agribusiness communities, and he is highly committed to driving the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) to deliver on its role as the catalyst dedicated to transforming Tanzania's agriculture sector. Tinnes holds a master's degree in Economics from the University of Oslo.

## PLENARY SESSION

### PLENARY SESSION 1: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINING TRADE EXPANSION



### Hon. Omar Said SHAABAN

Minister of Trade and  
Industrial Development,  
Revolutionary Government  
of Zanzibar. Tanzania  
(SAGCOT)

#### Chairperson

Hon. Omar Said Shaaban, Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

Prior to his ministerial role, Hon. Shaaban led Said Attorneys & Associates, excelling in Investment, Civil and Commercial Litigation, and Conveyance Law. His expertise extended to serving as Company Secretary for multiple firms. A seasoned member of various prestigious organizations, including the International Association of Managing Partners, he chaired the Zanzibar Institute of Tourism Development. Hon. Shaaban, a Zanzibar University alumnus, holds a Bachelor of Law and Shariah, complemented by a Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Diplomacy from Dar es Salaam's Center of Foreign Relation.

## PLENARY SESSION 2 - PRESENTERS & PANELISTS



**Flavian BUSINGYE**  
EAC Director of  
Customs-cum-Acting  
Director Trade

Ms. Flavian Busingye has over 15 years of experience in customs and trade management. Currently, she serves as the Director of Customs and Acting Director of Trade at the East African Community. Her previous roles include Principal Customs Officer for Compliance and Enforcement and Technical Advisor at TradeMark East Africa. Flavian also held significant positions at the Rwanda Revenue Authority, including Head of Trade Management and Head of Legal and Taxpayer Services. She earned a Master of Law (LLM) in International Economic and Business Law from the University of Groningen



### **Alicia NICHOLLS**

Junior Trade  
Research Fellow,  
Shridath Ramphal  
Centre, The  
University of the  
West Indies.

Alicia D. Nicholls is an international trade professional with 15 years of experience and serves as a Junior Trade Research Fellow and adjunct lecturer at the Shridath Ramphal Centre, UWI Cave Hill. She teaches in the Masters in International Trade Policy program and other UWI departments. Her research focuses on international trade, global financial regulation, and foreign investment law, with a focus on Caribbean small states. Alicia frequently presents at industry conferences, holds multiple academic qualifications, and is pursuing her Ph.D. She resides in Barbados.

Dennis Karera is a seasoned Rwandan entrepreneur with extensive experience in real estate development. He is the Chairman of Gold Capital Investments and Managing Director of Kigali Heights Development Company and Park View Courts, an Apart-Hotel facility in Kigali. Karera has developed key properties in Kigali and leads mixed-use real estate projects. He also chairs the Rwanda Hospitality Association and plays a key role in the Rwanda Private Sector Federation. A criminology graduate from the University of Cambridge, he is a retired civil servant and influential business leader in East Africa.



### **Denis KARERA**

Gold Capital  
Investment + Kigali  
Heights.



### **Elias KILEMBE,**

Consultant with  
EnergyCARDS,  
and technical  
advisor to the  
Petroleum Upstream  
Regulatory Authority  
(PURA) Board.

Mr. Elias A. Kilembe, a consultant with EnergyCARDS and technical advisor to PURA, boasts over 40 years in Tanzania's oil and gas sector. His roles included Senior Principal Petroleum Geologist at TPDC, Country Manager at Ras Al Khaimah Gas, and Deputy MD at Maurel et Prom. He holds an MSc in Geology from Duke University and other qualifications. Kilembe has promoted Tanzania's petroleum potential, negotiated key agreements, contributed to policy formulation, and published extensively on the sector.

### **Florence NAKITO**

Horticulture Exporters  
Association (HORTEXA),  
Uganda



## PLENARY SESSION

### PLENARY SESSION 2:

#### ENABLING TRADE COMPETITIVENESS

##### Chairperson



**Annette Mutaawe  
SSEMUWEMBA**

EAC Deputy Secretary-  
General Trade, Customs &  
Monetary Affairs

Ms. Annette Mutaawe Ssemuwemba is the Deputy Secretary General in Charge of Customs, Trade, and Monetary Affairs at the East African Community Secretariat. With an extensive career, she has held several high-level positions, including leading trade capacity building for LDCs at the Enhanced Integrated Framework, enhancing sustainable export competitiveness. At TradeMark East Africa, she managed a \$540 million portfolio across seven countries. Her contributions include customs union development and trade policy implementation. She holds an MBA and a bachelor's degree in economics from Makerere University, along with certifications from Yale and Harvard.

## PLENARY SESSION 2 PRESENTERS & PANELISTS



**Benedict  
MSENGELE**

Director, Trade  
Policy and Trade  
Facilitation TMA

Benedict Musengele is the Acting Senior Director for Trade Environment and Director of Trade and Customs at TradeMark Africa. He leads trade policy initiatives, including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, AfCFTA, and Trade in Services. He oversees programs on trade, customs, and digital trade systems. Previously, he was a Senior Research Fellow at COMESA, where he supported trade negotiations, launched research programs, and managed policy studies. With experience in trade and customs, he has contributed to studies on intra-COMESA trade, NTBs, and socio-economic impacts. Musengele holds a Master's in Economics and is completing his PhD at Kenyatta University.

Ms. Lilian K. Mukoronia serves as the Registrar of the East African Community Competition Authority, overseeing its daily operations. Previously, she was the Deputy Registrar for Mergers and Acquisitions at the EAC Competition Authority. With a Master's in Economics (University of Nairobi) and a Business Management degree (Moi University), she also holds a Diploma in Project Planning (Bradford University, UK) and certifications in competition regulation. Lilian formerly worked at Kenya's Competition Authority as a Senior Advocacy Officer and led the Mergers Division at the Monopolies and Prices Commission, contributing to Kenya's Competition Act enactment.



**Lilian K,  
MUKORONIA**

Registrar of the East  
African Community  
Competition  
Authority,



**Dr. Hermogene  
NSENGIMANA**

Secretary General,  
African Organization  
for Standardization  
(ARSO).

Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana has served as Secretary General of African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) since 2012, advancing ARSO's mandate to harmonize standards and reduce Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) across Africa. With over 20 years in leadership, he is an expert in Quality Infrastructure, strategic planning, team management, and trade policy, focusing on Africa's economic goals. Dr. Nsengimana's work supports Africa's industrialization and resilience, leveraging the AfCFTA and WTO's TBT/SPS Agreements. He holds a PhD in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand, along with postdoctoral experience at the same university and the University of Botswana.

Prof. Joseph Ndunguru is a molecular plant virologist and the current Director General of the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA). He previously led the Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute (MARI) and served as the National Biotechnology Research Coordinator in Tanzania. TPHPA, established by Act No. 04 of 2020, aligns with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Prof. Ndunguru's research focuses on understanding plant viruses at the molecular level, developing diagnostic tools, and creating management strategies for economically significant crops in Africa.



**Prof. Joseph NDUNGURU,**  
Director General,  
Plant Health &  
Pesticide Authority  
(Tz)



**Latifa M. KHAMIS,**  
Director General,  
Trade Development  
Authority  
(TanTrade).

Ms. Latifa M. Khamis is the Director General of the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), bringing over 19 years of public service experience across the Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development in Zanzibar and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Tanzania Mainland. She sets the vision and goals for TanTrade, ensuring domestic and global trade development. Latifa possesses extensive knowledge in national and international trade, market research, and capacity building. She has successfully organized programs such as Expo 2020 Dubai and the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, enhancing market access for Tanzanian goods. Latifa holds an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Studies, and an MBA in Marketing.

## PLENARY SESSION 3

### ENHANCING PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES FOR TRADE EXPANSION



**Elibariki SHAMMY**  
Country Director—  
TMA, Tanzania  
Country Program.

#### Chairperson

Mr. Elibariki Shammy, currently the Country Director for TradeMark Africa (TMA) in Tanzania, has over a decade of experience in trade development. Known for his leadership in donor-funded programs across East Africa, he previously served as Chief of Party at TetraTech, leading USAID's Feed the Future Tanzania Private Sector Strengthening Activity. At TMA, he has been instrumental in implementing trade facilitation projects, including constructing One Stop Border Posts, which reduced crossing times by 75%. He has developed systems like the Tanzania Commodity Exchange and supported the National Trade Policy review. Shammy also enhanced export processes and championed the Export Capability Project, boosting Tanzanian horticultural exports. His career includes roles as National Coordinator of Non-Tariff Barriers and Trade Officer, with a Master's in International Trade from the University of Dar es Salaam. His initiatives have focused on fostering private sector growth, policy reforms, and empowering women traders within the East African Community.

#### Dr. Mandefro NIGUSSIE

Chief Executive Officer,  
Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA).

## PLENARY SESSION 3 PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

Tullah Mloge is the Principal Executive Assistant to the CEO at SAGCOT Centre Limited, Tanzania. Skilled in research, project management, and partnership systems, she oversees the Ihemi and Mbarali Cluster Development Frameworks. Her experience includes roles at the Tanzanian Embassy in Berlin and Klippstein GmbH, Germany, highlighting her diplomatic and coordination abilities. Tullah's focus on ethical practices and sustainable agriculture positions her as a significant contributor to Tanzania's agricultural development.



**Tullah MLOGE**

Principal Executive Assistant to the CEO, SAGCOT Centre.



**Kelvin REMEN**

Deputy Chief of Party  
Tuhifadhi Chakula  
Project, TAHA

Mr. Remen is a seasoned private-sector outreach and development specialist with more than thirteen years of experience in policy analysis and advocacy, partnership management, public relations, investment facilitation, and stakeholder engagement. During his tenure in the Agriculture space, he has been instrumental in championing more than sixty-five (65) reforms in Policy, Legal, and Regulatory frameworks geared toward improving the business environment in the agriculture sector. Mr. Remen holds an MBA in Management from the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI).

Hon. Suleiman Shahbal is an experienced investment and commercial banker with over 25 years of experience, having established businesses worth over a billion dollars globally. He founded GulfCap Africa and Gulf African Bank, Kenya's first Islamic bank, and chairs Buxton Point Apartments, Kenya's largest affordable housing project. He also set up Gulf Energy and Gulf Power. Shahbal has held leadership roles at KenTrade and BankMuscat. He currently represents Kenya in EALA and is pursuing a PhD in Business Management at Strathmore University.



**Hon. Suleiman SHAHBAL**

Chairperson of  
EALA Committee on  
Communications, Trade  
& Investment



**Firew TEGEGNE**

Agricultural  
Transformation  
Agency (ATA),  
Ethiopia

Dr. Firew Tegegne Amogne holds a Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition from Humboldt University of Berlin and an M.Sc. in World Animal Production from the University of Wales. He is the Deputy Director at the Agriculture Transformation Institute in Ethiopia and serves on several boards, including the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research. Formerly President of Bahir Dar University, he has led various agricultural projects such as SATREPS and FAO-funded initiatives on cactus pear production.

Adam is a Tanzanian Textile Technologist/Consultant/Teacher, holds an M.Sc. in Technology from the University of Manchester, UK. He has had an extensive career, including roles such as Executive Secretary at Textile and Garment Manufacturers Association of Tanzania (TEGAMAT) and General Manager at Tanganyika Dyeing and Weaving Mills Ltd. His expertise has significantly impacted Tanzania's industrial sector.



**Mr. Adam Zuku**

Executive Secretary,  
Textiles and Garments  
Manufacturers  
Association of Tanzania

## SIGNING OF "PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS



**Chairperson:**  
**Prof. Rwekaza MUKANDALA**  
Board Chairperson – REPOA



**Dr. Jacqueline MKINDI**  
TAHA Chief Executive Officer



**Dr. Donald MMARI**  
REPOA Executive Director



**Geoffrey KIRENGA**  
Chief Executive Director  
Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT)

## DINNER AND SPECIAL SESSION ON "FINANCING TRADE EXPANSION 1"



**Dr. Donald MMARI**  
REPOA Executive Director



**Abdulmajid NSEKELA**  
Chief Executive Officer  
CRDB Bank Plc



Gerald is the Head of Trade Finance and Transactional Banking at CRDB Bank Plc, bringing over 24 years of banking experience with major banks in Tanzania, including NMB, NBC, Citibank, and Barclays. He has specialized in International Trade financing and pioneered the Transactional Banking concept across various institutions. With extensive expertise in international payments, Gerald holds an MBA, a BCom in Finance from the University of Dar es Salaam, an Associate Diploma in Banking, and a Diploma in Business Administration. He has also completed leadership programs at Strathmore University and Harvard Business School.



**Gerald KAMUGISHA**  
Head, Trade & Transactional Banking, CRDB Plc

## PLENARY SESSION 4

### ENHANCING CONVERGENCE THROUGH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS



**Chairperson**  
**Weyinmi OMAMULI**  
Senior Economic Advisor,  
UNDP

Weyinmi Omamuli is the Senior Economic Advisor for UNDP Tanzania. She has over twenty years' experience in international development, economic analysis and finance having worked for organizations such as the UK's Department for International Development, HM Treasury, ARM Investment Managers, Oxford Analytica and Moody's Investors Service. Weyinmi holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics and development studies respectively from the London School of Economics.

## PLENARY SESSION 4 PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

Dr. Elijah N. Munyi is the Research Manager and Policy Writer at TradeMark Africa, based in Nairobi, leading trade facilitation efforts across 14 African countries. He holds a PhD in Development Studies from Aalborg University, Denmark, with a focus on the Political Economy of EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements. Co-editor of *\*Beyond History: African Agency in Development, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution\**, his research at TradeMark Africa focuses on quantifying trade facilitation investments' impact on African trade. He also emphasizes integrating insights from ongoing studies into programming to enhance trade outcomes.



**Mr. Elijah MUNYI**  
Research Manager  
and Policy Writer  
Trademark Africa



**Sempeho NYARI**  
Director of Trade  
Development,  
Ministry of  
Industry and Trade  
(Tanzania).

has served as Acting Director of Trade Development for the Ministry of Industry and Trade since 2023. He was previously SIDO Regional Manager for Manyara (2015-2017) and Dodoma (2017-2023), overseeing SME development. He holds a BA in Economics from Bugema University, an MBA in Corporate Management from Mzumbe University, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Administration. A Certified Kaizen Master Trainer since 2025, he has nearly a decade of experience in productivity improvement for manufacturing and public sectors.

Mr. Bereket Alemayehu is a Trade Expert at the African Trade Policy Center, UNECA, and teaches economic law at Addis Ababa University. Previously, he served as a Trade Policy Officer at the UK Department for Business and Trade in Ethiopia, focusing on trade policy implementation. Bereket has advised multinational and domestic firms on investment, commercial, and environmental law and has published in journals like UNCTAD's *\*Transnational Corporations\**. He holds LL.B., LL.M. degrees from Addis Ababa University, Central European University, and the University of Turin, and frequently contributes to media outlets on trade issues.



**Bereket  
ALEMAYEHU,**  
Trade Expert, United  
Nations Economic  
Commission for  
Africa

**Amea DAGNACHEW,**  
Ethiopia Leather Industry Association.

## PLENARY SESSION 5

### ENHANCING CONVERGENCE THROUGH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS



**Dr Lucas KATERA**  
 Director of Collaborations and Capacity Building; REPOA.

## PLENARY SESSION 5 PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

Mr. Elias Baluku is the Acting Executive Director, of the East African Federation of Freight Forwarders (FEAFFA) with 20 years of experience in private sector and civil society partnerships across grassroots, national, and regional levels. He has over 14 years in the EAC regional freight logistics industry, coordinating capacity-building programs like the East Africa Customs and Freight Forwarding Practicing Certificate, recognized by training authorities in Kenya and Tanzania. Elias advocates for professional recognition of freight forwarding in the EAC and oversees the pilot of a regional diploma program in Kenya. He also convenes the technical committee for the EAC Regional Logistics Platform



**Elias BALUKU**  
 Ag. Executive Director, East African Federation of Freight Forwarders



**Timothy MLAGA**  
 General Manager, TAHA FRESH.

Mr. Timothy G. Mlaga is the General Manager of Tahafresh Handling Limited, with over 15 years of experience in the logistics sector. He specializes in air, sea, and road freight, customs clearance, and warehousing. Renowned for optimizing supply chain processes, Mr. Mlaga has successfully delivered strategic solutions for various reputable companies in Tanzania. He has strong leadership skills, managing teams of over 20 staff members and navigating the complexities of transporting perishable and dangerous goods. Mr. Mlaga holds an Advanced Diploma in Freight Clearing and Forwarding, as well as ongoing MBA studies at the Arusha Institute of Accountancy.

Faraji ABRI is a Director at ASAS Group, a prominent company in the Transportation, Trucking, and Railroad industry. With extensive experience in overseeing operations and strategic direction, Faraji plays a key role in driving the group's growth and maintaining its reputation for excellence in the logistics sector. His leadership has been instrumental in positioning ASAS Group as a leading player in the industry.



**Faraj ABRI**  
 Managing Director, ASAS Logistics

Mr. Nagib Karmali, Head of Projects & Business Development at Veg Pro Kenya, has over 17 years in business development, marketing, and international student recruitment. He has expertise in government collaboration, branding, and managing large teams. His previous roles include leadership positions at Limkokwing University, APU Malaysia, and Cambrian Schools in Bangladesh. He holds an MBA in General Management and has received awards in marketing excellence and student recruitment.



**Nagib KARMALI**  
Managing Director,  
Avo Africa Tz Limited  
Company Tz.

## PLENARY SESSION 6

### PARTNERSHIPS AND BENEFITS OF TRADE AGREEMENTS

#### Chairperson



**Prof. Masinde  
WANYAMA**  
Centre for Regional  
Integration – CEFRI,  
SOUTH AFRICAW

Wanyama Masinde is a Regional Integration and Public Policy Expert with extensive advisory experience across Africa. He has worked with the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, and various governments, advising sectors from parliaments to civil society. Wanyama has consulted for organizations like the UNDP, World Bank, EU, USAID, AfDB, and PwC. His expertise spans governance, institutional reform, regional integration policies, trade facilitation, investment climate, and economic diplomacy. He also manages regional projects, assessing and monitoring integration progress, and enhancing negotiation skills.

## PLENARY SESSION 6 PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

Ms. Christine Mutimura, FCI Arb, is the Deputy Registrar of the East African Court of Justice. She holds an LLB from Makerere University and an LLM in International Law from the University of Glasgow. Previously, she served as Senior Legal Officer and Regional Integration Specialist at the East African Community Secretariat, Principal State Attorney at the Ministry of Justice in Rwanda, and a Provincial Prosecutor. Ms. Christine also holds a certificate in International Arbitration from Hamline University School of Law and Queen Mary University of London.



**Ms. Christine  
MUTIMURA**  
Acting Registrar, E A  
Court of Justice



**Weyinmi OMAMULI**  
Senior Economic Advisor,  
UNDP

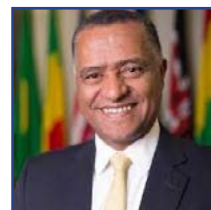


### Dr Said S. MZEE

Deputy Principal Secretary,  
Ministry of Trade & Industrial Development,  
Zanzibar.

Dr. Said S. Mzee is the Deputy Principal Secretary at Zanzibar's Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development, a position he has held since February 2024. Previously, he served as Accountant General (2022-2024) and Managing Director of Zanzibar State Trading Corporation (2016-2022). He holds a PhD in Finance from University Putra Malaysia and an MBA in Finance and Banking from Mzumbe University. With over 20 years of experience in finance, economics, and strategic management, Dr. Mzee has served on various public and private boards and continues to contribute to both sectors in Zanzibar

Dr. Melaku Desta is the Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre at UNECA in Addis Ababa. Formerly, he served as Principal Regional Advisor at ECA, Senior Technical Advisor at the APRM Secretariat, and a Professor of International Economic Law in the UK. An Ethiopian native, he holds a PhD in international economic law and has published extensively on African and international economic law, focusing on agriculture and natural resources. Dr. Desta has also consulted for various organizations and served as an arbitrator in international disputes.



### Melaku DESTA

Coordinator, African Trade Policy Centre  
Regional Integration and Trade  
Division United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



### Marloes HAMELINK

Executive Director,  
European Business Group (EUBG)

Ms. Marloes HAMELINK, is the Executive Director of the European Business Group (EUBG), co-founder and Director at Momentum Hub Ltd. She has over 10 years as a corporate anthropologist and qualitative researcher, also focuses on enhancing team dynamics and efficiency. Formerly a Gender and Communications Expert at the Belgian Embassy in Tanzania, she specializes in intercultural communication and gender equality. Currently, a PhD candidate in Cultural Anthropology at the African Studies Centre, Leiden, researching gender, media, and religion in Zanzibar.

## CLOSING SESSION



**Chairperson**  
**Dr. Donald MMARI**  
REPOA Executive Director



## KEY REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



**Dr. Jamal MSAMI**  
Director of  
Strategic Research  
REPOA

Dr. Jamal Msami is REPOA's Director of Strategic Research, with a decade of experience in policy research, focusing on governance, service delivery, industrialization, employment, and enterprise development. His work includes publications on public service reforms and trade policies, with current projects on political settlements, corrupt business-government relationships, and trade competitiveness in Tanzania. He holds a PhD in Social Policy from the University of Bristol.

Dr. Jane Mpapalika, Senior Researcher at REPOA, specializes in fiscal policy with over a decade of experience in policy research. Her expertise spans governance, gender, financing instruments, climate change, and the environment. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Witwatersrand and an M.A. from Leeds University. Previously she was a UN Young Professional at UNECA.



**Jane MPAPALIKA**  
Senior Researcher  
REPOA



**Dr. Lucas Katera**  
Director of  
Collaborations and  
Capacity Building

Dr. Lucas Katera is REPOA's Director of Collaborations & Capacity Building, an economist with expertise in poverty, public policy, governance, and service delivery. He has published extensively on local government topics, including service delivery, financial management, and accountability.

## CLOSING REMARKS



**Rt. Hon. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA**  
Speaker EALA

Rt. Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana has served as the 6th Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) since 2022 and is a member representing Burundi. He has extensive diplomatic and political experience, including roles as Senior Advisor at the Burundi Embassy in Kenya, Special Advisor on Diplomatic Politics to the President, and Ambassador to the UN. He has held various ministerial positions in Burundi, served as a National Assembly representative, and was a founding member of FRODEBU. He holds a degree in education from the Pedagogical Institute.

07:00 – 08:00	Arrival and Registration	ALL
OPENING PLENARY		
08:00 – 08:15	Overview of the workshop programme National and EAC Anthems	Person of / Master of Ceremony REPOA – Stephen MWOMBELA EALA – Nicodemus AJAK
08:15 – 08:25	Welcoming remarks from REPOA	Dr. Donald MMARI REPOA Executive Director
08:25 – 08:35	Welcoming Remarks from the Host	H.E. Alex Obatre Clerk of EALA  Ms. Annette Mutaawe SSEMUEMBA EAC Deputy Secretary-General Trade, Customs & Monetary Affairs
08:35 – 08:50	Remarks from Other Collaborating Institutions	Elibariki SHAMMY Country Director- TradeMark Africa (TMA) Tanzania Country Programme  Dr. Jacqueline MKINDI Chief Executive Officer Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA)  Abdulmajid NSEKELA Chief Executive Officer CRDB Bank Plc
08:50 – 09:00	Remarks from REPOA's Core Partners	H.E. Tone TINNES Ambassador of Norway to Tanzania & EAC
09:00 – 09:05	Welcoming the Minister	Prof. Rwekaza MUKANDALA Board Chairperson – REPOA.
09:05 – 09:15	Welcoming the Guest of Honour	Hon. Dr. Selemani JAFO Minister of Industry and Trade.
09:15 – 09:50	OPENING ADDRESS	Honourable Dr. Doto Mashaka BITEKO, (MP), Deputy Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania and Minister of Energy
09:50 – 10:10	Keynote Address 1	H.E. Veronica NDUVA EAC Secretary-General.
10:10 – 10:30	Keynote Address 2	Ms Trudy HARTZENBERG TRALAC Chief Executive Officer
10:30 – 10:50	Keynote Address 3	Mr. Junior LODGE Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Sustainable Economic Transformation and Trade (SETT); The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).
11:50 – 11:00	Vote of Thanks	Geoffrey KIRENGA Chief Executive Director Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT)
11:00 – 11:15	Group photo	REPOA / EALA Communication Team
11:15-11:30	TEA BREAK	All

11:30-13:30	PLENARY SESSION 1: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINING TRADE EXPANSION	Chairperson: Hon. Omar Said SHAABAN Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.
	Some key reflections from the keynote presentations (10 minutes)	Mr. Adrian NJAU Executive Secretary of the East Africa Business Council
	Presenters and Panelists	Ms. Flavian BUSINGYE, EAC Director of Customs-cum-Acting Director Trade.  Florence NAKITO, Horticulture Exporters Association (HORTEXA), Uganda.  Alicia NICHOLLS, Junior Trade Research Fellow, Shridath Ramphal Centre, The University of the West Indies.  Denis KARERA, Gold Capital Investment + Kigali Heights.  Elias A. KILEMBE, Consultant with EnergyCARDS, and technical advisor to the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) Board.
13:30 - 14:30	LUNCH BREAK	ALL
14:30 - 16:15	PLENARY SESSION 2: ENABLING TRADE COMPETITIVENESS	Chairperson: Ms. Annette Mutaawe SSEMUWEMBA EAC Deputy Secretary-General Trade, Customs & Monetary Affairs.
	Presenters and Panelists	Benedict MSENGELE, Director, Trade Policy and Trade Facilitation TMA.  Lilian K, MUKORONIA, Registrar of the East African Community Competition Authority  Dr. Hermogene NSENGIMANA, Secretary General, African Organization for Standardization (ARSO).  Prof. Joseph NDUNGURU, Director General, Plant Health & Pesticide Authority (Tz).  Latifa M. KHAMIS, Director General, Trade Development Authority (TanTrade).
16:15 - 16:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	ALL
16:30-18:15	PLENARY SESSION 3 ENHANCING PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES FOR TRADE EXPANSION	Chairperson: Elibariki SHAMMY Country Director—TMA, Tanzania Country Program.
	Presenters and Panelists	Tullah MLOGE, Principal Executive Assistant to the CEO, SAGCOT Centre. Kelvin REMEN, Deputy Chief of Party Tuhifadhi Chakula Project, TAHA. Hon. Suleiman SHAHBAL, Chairperson of EALA Committee on Communications, Trade & Investment. Mr. Adam Zuku Executive Secretary, Textiles and Garments Manufacturers Association of Tanzania Firew TEGEGNE, Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), Ethiopia. Dr. Mandefro NIGUSSIE, Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA).

## DAY 01 TUE, 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

18:15-18:40	SIGNING OF “PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS”	<p>Chairperson: Prof. Rwekaza MUKANDALA Board Chairperson – REPOA</p> <p>1. REPOA AND TAHA</p> <p>Dr. Donald MMARI REPOA Executive Director</p> <p>Dr. Jacqueline MKINDI TAHA Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>2. REPOA AND SAGCOT</p> <p>Dr. Donald MMARI REPOA Executive Director</p> <p>Geoffrey KIRENGA Chief Executive Director, SAGCOT</p>
18:40 – 21: 45	DINNER AND SPECIAL SESSION ON “FINANCING TRADE EXPANSION 1”	<p>CRDB BANK Introduction – Dr. Donald MMARI REPOA Executive Director</p> <p>Key Statement – Abdulmajid Mussa NSEKELA CEO &amp; Managing Director, CRDB Bank PLC</p> <p>Gerald KAMUGISHA Head, Trade &amp; Transactional Banking, CRDB Plc.</p>

## DAY 02 WED, 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

07:30 – 08:30	Arrival and registration	All
08:30 – 10:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION 4:</p> <p>ENHANCING CONVERGENCE THROUGH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS</p> <hr/> <p>Presenters and Panelists</p>	<p>Chairperson:</p> <p>Ms. Weyinmi OMAMULI Senior Economic Advisor, UNDP</p> <p>Mr. Elijah MUNYI, Research Manager and Policy Writer Trademark Africa. (PPP on “Enhancing Kenya’s Export Sector through Export Supply Hubs (ESH)”).</p> <p>Amea DAGNACHEW, Ethiopia Leather Industry Association.</p> <p>Mr. Sempelo NYARI, Director of Trade Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade (Tanzania).</p> <p>Bereket ALEMAYEHU, Trade Expert, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.</p>
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK	All

11:00 – 13:00	PLENARY SESSION 5: ENHANCING CONVERGENCE THROUGH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS	Chairperson: Dr. Lucas KATERA Director of Collaborations and Capacity Building; REPOA.
	Presenters and Panelists	Elias BALUKU—Ag. Executive Director, East African Federation of Freight Forwarders.  Timothy MLAGA, General Manager, TAHA FRESH.  Nagib KARMALI, Managing Director, Avo Africa Tz Limited Company Tz.  Faraj ABRI, Managing Director, ASAS Logistics.
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	All
14:00 – 16:00	PLENARY SESSION 6: PARTNERSHIPS AND BENEFITS OF TRADE AGREEMENTS	Chairperson: Prof. Masinde WANYAMA, Centre for Regional Integration – CEFRI, SOUTH AFRICA.
	Presenters and Panelists	Ms. Christine Wekesa MUTIMURA, Acting Regis- trar, E A Court of Justice.  Dr Said S. MZEE, Deputy Principal Secretary, Minis- try of Trade & Industrial Development, Zanzibar.  Melaku Geboye DESTA, Coordinator, African Trade Policy Centre Regional Integration and Trade Division United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).  Marloes HAMELINK, Executive Director, European Business Group (EUBG).  Ms. Weyinmi OMAMULI Senior Economic Advisor, UNDP
16:00 - 16:30	TEA BREAK	All
16:30 -18:00	CLOSING SESSION	Chairperson: Dr. Donald MMARI REPOA Executive Director.
	Key reflections and recommendations	REPOA Jamal MSAMI, Director of Strategic Research Jane MPAPALIKA, Senior Researcher Lucas KATERA, Director of Collaborations and Capacity Building.
	CLOSING REMARKS	Right Honorable Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA Speaker EALA.







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