



Trade, Technology and Transformation Conference 2025

Empowering Africa's Future: Unveiling Economic Growth and Technological Advancement



Tutwa is the translation of "giraffe" into Lozi



PROGRAMME OUTLINE

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 9 JUNE 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE

13:00 –
17:00

ARRIVALS

REGISTRATIONS

WELCOME COCKTAIL FOR ARRIVING GUESTS

9:30-12:30

Conference DAY TWO: Tuesday, 10 June 2025

Conference Co-Chairs, Prof Verena TANDRAYEN (UoM)/ Ms Lesley WENTWORTH (Tutwa Consulting Group)

Welcome to the Minister

Opening & Welcome Address by Minister Dhananjay Ramful – The AfCFTA and Importance of the Digital Trade Protocol for Island States like Mauritius

Keynote by Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Geneva (tbc)

Digital Transformation Experts Panel

Panel Session: **Prof Verena TANDRAYEN (UoM)**

	WTO Ambassador, and African WTO Research Chairs from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Mauritius
12:30-13:30	FINGER LUNCH
Session One Fundamental issues of trade, investment and digital transformation	
13:30-15:30	Keynote Speaker Facilitator: Thabelo Muleya (Tutwa Consulting Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-Tariff Barriers Transparency and Elimination through Online Reporting Mechanisms in the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement and Regional Economic Communities, Thembekile MLANGENI, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), SA ▪ What it would take for a no-stop border in Africa, Dr Bruce Byiers, ECDPM ▪ EU Export of Regulatory Overreach: The Case of the Digital Markets Act (DMA), Matthias Bauer, Dyuti Pandya and Vanika Sharma, European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE) ▪ India-SACU Economic Engagement: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Impact of Digital Trade, Dr Animesh Kumar and Pooja Maurya, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT and Centre for Research in International Trade (CRIT) (Under Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry) ▪ Trade Facilitation Under the African Continental Free Area (AfCFTA): The Role of Digital Customs Systems in Enhancing Competitiveness and Promoting Intra-African Trade, Onyekwena Chukwuka, Ph. D, Oluwatosin Edafe, Ph. D, Okon Anthony, and Essang Clinton, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)
Coffee	
Session Two ICTs, emerging technologies, and Digital Transformation	
15:30-17:00	Keynote Speaker Facilitator: TBC (Wits University) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital Identification as a Binding Trust Constraint to Inclusive Digital Financial Services (DFS): A Comparative Case Study of the Nigerian and South African Ecosystems, Dr Raymond, University of the Witwatersrand ▪ Investigating the Adoption of Artificial intelligence (AI) by Informal Traders in selected Regions of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa, Dr Olusegun Adesile, University of Pretoria

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connected Communities and Smart Cities in Africa: Digital Transformation for Sustainable Urbanisation, Joshua C. Ngoma and Stella Muhoro, Enterprising Africa Regional Network (EARN) ▪ Strengthening mobile payment application adoption among entrepreneurs in Mauritius: A Case of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Marie Belinda Carlise Poussin Doejee and Dr Diroubinee Mauree-Narainen, University of Technology, Mauritius
19:00-22:00	Gala Dinner
Conference DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025	
08:00-09:00	Registration Breakfast, Teas and Coffee to be served
Session Three Issues of Sustainability, capacity building in trade, investment and digital transformation	
09:00-11:00	Keynote Speaker Facilitator: Professor Boopen Seetanah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analyzing the Short-term Dynamics Between Consumer Spending, Formal and Informal SMEs, and Employment Growth in South Africa: A Bound Testing Approach, Olusegun Adesile, University of Pretoria ▪ Bridging the Divide: Digital Transformation, Public Service Access, and Educational Equity in South Africa's Digital Future, Dahlvik Julia and Upasana G Singh, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa ▪ Developing an innovation measurement framework for the Mauritian manufacturing industry, Bryan ARNASALA, University of Mauritius ▪ Assessing the Effect of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Trade-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa, Uche Anyamele Ph. D, Anthony Bisong, Chinedu Ifionu and Onyinye Onuh, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)
11:00-11:30	Tea
Session Four Emerging issues in the trade, investment, and digital trade domain	
11:30-13:30	Keynote Speaker Facilitator: Prof Manoj Maharaj <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital Banking Adoption in Mauritius: Implications for Senior Citizen Consumers Leenshya GUNNOO and Eric BINDAH, University of Technology Mauritius & University of Mauritius

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitisation of the Simplified Trade Regime as a means of Trade Facilitation, Sitshengisiwe Ndlovu The Socioeconomic Impact of Digital Transactions, J Matadeen and L M Amelot, University of Mauritius
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Gender Panel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Facilitator: Mme Georgina Ragaven</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EDB (tbc)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GIBS (tbc)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms Subethri Naidoo</p>
Session Five Digital Trade and Economic Integration	
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Keynote Speaker</p> <p>Facilitator: Professor Varsha Mooneeram-Chady</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Economy and Trade: Evidence from South Africa, P Macheve and I Choga, North-West University The nexus between the E-commerce business model and an inclusive AfCFTA, Kugonza Julius and Nsubuga Ronald, Uganda Revenue Authority & United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Digital Trade as a Catalyst for Africa's Economic Integration, Amshuly Chandran and Shiva Singh Chauhan, Center for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, IIFT Department of Commerce, Government of India
Day Four – Thursday 12 June 2025	
Session Six – Building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for inclusive Growth and Resilience in Africa	
09:00-12:00	<p>Keynote: HE Dr Mzukisi Qobo Ambassador and Permanent Representative for South Africa to the WTO</p> <p>Facilitator: Lesley Wentworth, Tutwa Consulting Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Public Infrastructure and Financial Payments in Africa: Lessons from India's UPI Chandrashekhar and Sugam Shine, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi & Galgotias University Understanding the Potential of Digital Public Infrastructure on Growth: Considerations for South Africa and Africa, Jayanthi Basdew and Katlego Nkgudi, National Treasury-SA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital Engineering as a Necessary Capability to Facilitate AfCFTA, Prof. Joe Amadi-Echendu, University of Pretoria
12:30 – 21:00	Mauritius cuisine festival