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## 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index-Sub-Saharan Africa: A continuous struggle

This year's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) presents a largely gloomy picture for Africa – only eight of 49 countries score more than 43 out of 100 on the index. Despite commitments from African leaders in declaring 2018 as the African Year of Anti-Corruption, this has yet to translate into concrete progress.

Seychelles scores 66 out of 100, to put it at the top of the region. Seychelles is followed by Botswana and Cabo Verde, with scores of 61 and 57 respectively.

At the very bottom of the index for the seventh year in a row, Somalia scores 10 points, followed by South Sudan (13) to round out the lowest scores in the region.

With an average score of just 32, Sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest scoring region on the index,

### Recommendations

Governments in Sub-Saharan Africa must intensify their efforts and keep in mind the following issues, when tackling corruption in their countries:

Demonstrate visible commitment to anti-corruption from political leaders, notably in Burundi, Congo and Mozambique.

Protect human rights defenders, political analysts, anti-corruption activists and investigative journalists and enable them to speak out on corruption issues.

Improve the health of democratic institutions. This includes supporting participation, transparency and trust, along with necessary checks and balances.

<https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/cpi2018-sub-saharan-africa-regional-analysis>

## CBC Hosts Anti-Corruption Compliance Training for enterprises in Zambia.

The COMESA Business Council in partnership with the Bankers Association of Zambia and the Zambia Bureau of Standards

(ZABS) will be convening the **CBC Anti-Corruption Compliance Training Workshop for Enterprises** from the 27th-28th February 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia. The theme of the training is, "Towards strengthening business integrity for SMEs in COMESA."

### CBC BUSINESS INTEGRITY PROJECT

#### "Anti- Corruption Compliance Training for Enterprises"



This is part of the CBC Business Integrity Project in partnership with the US CENTRE FOR private Enterprises. Similar training have already been carried out in Ethiopia, Rwanda Zambia and Mauritius.

The objective is to build the capacity of the private sector to curb corruption and develop compliance systems within their own enterprises thereby contributing to their sustainability and value to enter

## Introducing the COMESA Business Council

We are the recognized Business Member Organization, established as a private sector institution of COMESA. We represent the interests of businesses sectors at a regional level. The services provided go beyond advocacy, to actively promote business participation in regional integration, investment and global trade.

This is done by facilitating the growth of strong business synergies, the development of business opportunities, business alliances, legislative and strategic advocacy. We provide custom tailored services that are driven by both industry and enterprise interests.



## UK signs Eastern and Southern Africa trade continuity agreement



A continuity agreement will see British businesses and consumers benefitting from continued trade with Eastern and Southern Africa after we leave the European Union.

Trade Minister George Hollingbery signed the UK-Eastern and Southern Africa agreement in London today (Thursday 31 January) with a number of representative governments.

The news has been welcomed by businesses including Princes

Tuna, who say it will help to support over 4000 jobs and ensure they can keep trading without disruption.

This continuity agreement has been agreed as we prepare to leave the EU on 29 March. It replicates the effects of the existing EU Economic Partnership Agreement with Eastern and Southern Africa.

This will help to further strengthen the trading relationship between the UK and

these countries, which was worth £1.5 billion in 2017.

Based on current trade flows, meat and fish exporters in Eastern and Southern Africa could save £30 million a year in tariff charges that could apply if the agreement wasn't in place, while clothing exporters could save more than £10m and sugar exporters could save around £8m.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-eastern-and->

*The UK is where almost 30 percent of the tuna exports of the Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT) company based in Seychelles to the EU are geared.*

## Seychelles, UK sign deal to ensure continued trade after Brexit

Seychelles and the United Kingdom have signed an **Economic Partnership Agreement** to reflect continuity of the trade relationship between the two countries in view of the envisaged exit of the UK from the European Union.

The agreement was signed on Thursday at the UK's **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** in London by Beryl Samson, Seychelles' ambassador to Belgium, and George Hollingbery, the UK's Minister of State for Trade Policy. In a recent interview with the press, Cillia Mangroo, the principal secretary of trade and investment,

said that in view of the current situation, it was important for Seychelles to be cautious and to sign and ratify this new agreement with the UK before March 29 this year, the date on which the UK has to leave the EU.

Mangroo said that in the case that there is a no Brexit deal, the UK will not have a transition period with the EU and this will be a concern for Seychelles as it will not have preferential access to the UK market. "This will be a huge loss of revenue for Seychelles thus

the importance of having the agreement before March 29," said Mangroo.

The UK is where almost 30 percent of the tuna exports of the Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT) company based in Seychelles to the EU are geared.

Exports from Seychelles, an archipelago in the western Indian Ocean, to the EU are currently granted duty-free quota-free treatment upon entry into the European market, due to the interim **Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA)**. <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/10440/Seychelles%2C+UK+sign+deal+to+ensure+continued+trade+after+Brexit>

## East African nations approve individual trade pacts with EU if joint deal not reached



DAR ES SALAAM (Reuters) - East African countries can individually sign separate trade agreements with the European Union (EU) if a joint deal is not reached within the next four months, according to a statement from a meeting of regional leaders.

The East African Community (EAC) and the EU have been at loggerheads for years over signing the so-called Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), designed to replace preferential trade deals struck down by the World Trade Organization. "The summit ... decided that the EAC engages the EU on the matter in the next four months to get more clarification on the pertinent issues of concern. Thereafter, partner states who

wish to, may or may not sign the EPA," East African leaders said in a joint statement late on Friday.

The agreement was reached at the summit in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha on Friday. Uhuru Kenya

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-east-africa-trade/east-african-nations-approve-individual-trade-pacts-with-eu-if-joint-deal-not-reached-idUSKCN1PR04P>

## East Africa leaders meet— EAC Summit



East Africa's heads of state met in Arusha on Friday as a dark cloud of unresolved longstanding trade spats, tariff and non-tariff barriers and crippling financial challenges hang over the bloc.

For Kenya and Tanzania, talks on trade in sugar and tobacco hit a dead end after the EAC Secretariat was accused of failing to resolve the outstanding issue over the past seven months.

Rwanda has recently experienced simmering diplomatic tensions with Burundi and Uganda over long-running security concerns that threaten to spin out of control.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Tanzanian counterpart John Magufuli were expected to revisit the persistent trade spats between their bureaucrats since they directed that the differences be ironed out at the last summit in Kampala in February last year, with little or no progress achieved so far.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni handed over the chairmanship to Rwanda's Paul Kagame.

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/East-Africa-leaders-meet-as-trade-wars-underfunding-persist/4552908-4962988-y0ro3f/index.html>

### FOR THE Summit Declaration visit :

<https://www.eac.int/communique/1343-joint-communiqu%C3%A9-20th-ordinary-summit-of-heads-of-state-of-the-east-african-community>

## Ethiopia approves AfCFTA

Ethiopia is the latest country to approve the African Union's Africa Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA pact after the cabinet passed the deal on Saturday, the Prime Minister's office confirmed. The PM's office said: "The decision is consistent with PM Abiy's vision of creating a closer & full regional integration — where minds are open to ideas & markets are open to trade. Ethiopia's decision & track record of advocating Pan African causes will bring to reality an integrated Africa."

Despite having passed the cabinet stage, it will proceed to the legislature for a final vote before instruments of ratification could be deposited with the AU chairperson. According to the AU chief, Ethiopia's impending ratification will become the eighteenth meaning only four other ratifications will be required for the pact to enter into force.

To have the pact operationalized, the AU needs a minimum of 22 ratifications.

Some of the earliest to ratify were: Rwanda, Kenya, Chad, Niger, eSwatini (Swaziland) and Ghana in a bid to create the largest trade zone in the world. Once in force AfCFTA aims to increase intra-African trade by 52% by the year 2022, remove tariffs on 90% of goods, liberalise services and tackle other barriers to intra-African trade, such as long delays at border posts.

<http://www.africanews.com/2019/02/03/ethiopia-approves-afcfta-as-au-eyes-feb-2019->

**Once in force AfCFTA aims to increase intra-African trade by 52% by the year 2022.**

## Safaricom to Replace Manual M-Pesa Transaction Books with Digital Registers to Enhance Information Privacy

Safaricom says it will replace manual M-Pesa transaction books with digital registers by the end of the year to enhance information privacy of its customers.

Amon Ngechu, Senior Manager, Financial Systems (M-Pesa) Support, says that the technical team is in its advanced stages to roll out the transaction book in digital form.

"We will work with the regulator and our regulatory counterparts are working on that to ensure that requirement is lifted and all information needed by the regulator and agents can be available in digital means," he said at the sidelines of the media technology forum held at Safaricom Headquarters, Nairobi.

<https://kenyanwallstreet.com/safaricom-to-replace-manual-m-pesa-transaction-books-with-digital-registers-to-enhance-information-privacy/>



## Quarter One 2019—Calendar of Activities

CBC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES		
2019		
	ACTIVITY	COUNTRY
<b>January</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Office	
<b>February</b>		
	BIZNET Mapping carried out in two countries – CBC Membership drives	
27-28	CBC Integrity Project: Anti-Corruption Compliance Training	Zambia
	Regional Manufactures Handbook Developed – Source 21	
<b>March</b>		
	Local Sourcing for Partnerships: Compliance to purchasing and standards requirements of buyers in horticulture	Zimbabwe
	Regional Manufactures Handbook Developed – Source 21	
<b>April</b>		
	COMESA Business Trader Index (BTI) – Field work	
	Regional Code on Anti-Corruption Compliance developed	
25-30 <sup>th</sup>	Local Sourcing for Partnerships: Compliance to purchasing and standards requirements of buyers in horticulture	Uganda

## UPCOMING EVENTS



The COMESA Business Council (CBC) has partnered with the Kenya Association of Manufacturers in hosting the **Source21 COMESA International Trade Fair** (S21CITF) under the theme **"Hallmark of Quality"**. The International Trade Fair will be held from **17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2019** in **Nairobi, Kenya** at the **Kenya International Conference Centre (KICC)**.

The fair is set to attract regional and International businesses and visitors from more than 56 countries from across the globe. Within the margins of the S21CITF, they will also convene the **Source 21 COMESA High-Level Business Forum** from the **17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2019**.

For more information visit :

<http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/source21/>

Do you want Information/ barrier report/membership/Participation/ Partnership with CBC? Visit:  
<http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/> or write to  
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