

University of Nairobi to co-host Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions.

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The University of Nairobi, School of Economics in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be hosting a regional dialogue conference on WTO Accessions for the greater horn of Africa from August, 28-30, 2017 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi.

Speaking during a press briefing, Ambassador Amina Mohammed, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the ministry and the government in general, emphasize on partnership and collaboration with the private sector, the academia and all stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation.

The regional dialogue meeting has been convened for four African countries from the greater Horn of Africa that are in the process of acceding to the WTO. The target countries are: Union of Comoros, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, Federal Republic of Somalia and Republic of Sudan. Republic of Sudan, which has expressed interest to join WTO will also participate.

Other countries that joined WTO recently, have also been invited to the conference. They include: China, Liberia, Oman, Yemen and Seychelles. They are expected to share their accession experiences, reflect on ways in which WTO membership can foster regional integration and cooperation. The dialogue conference will also mobilize support for facilitating and accelerating

African accessions.

Ambassador Amina also noted that Kenya as a founding member of WTO will continue supporting African countries in capacity building especially on trade negotiations. She added that accession to WTO by African countries is crucial for regional and continental integration process. Accelerated regional integration will increase intra-Africa trade which currently stands at 12% compared to Europe at over 60%.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi observed that the School of Economics was awarded the WTO Chair to support capacity building, and international trade. He noted that the University collaborates with the private sector, the industry in doing research and disseminates the research findings to solve the problems facing Africa. Prof. Mbithi was represented by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs and Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance.

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