



Standardisation and International Trade – The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

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Context

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement will create the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating.

The pact connects 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) valued at US\$3.4 trillion.

Achieving its full potential will depend on putting in place significant policy reforms and trade facilitation measures.

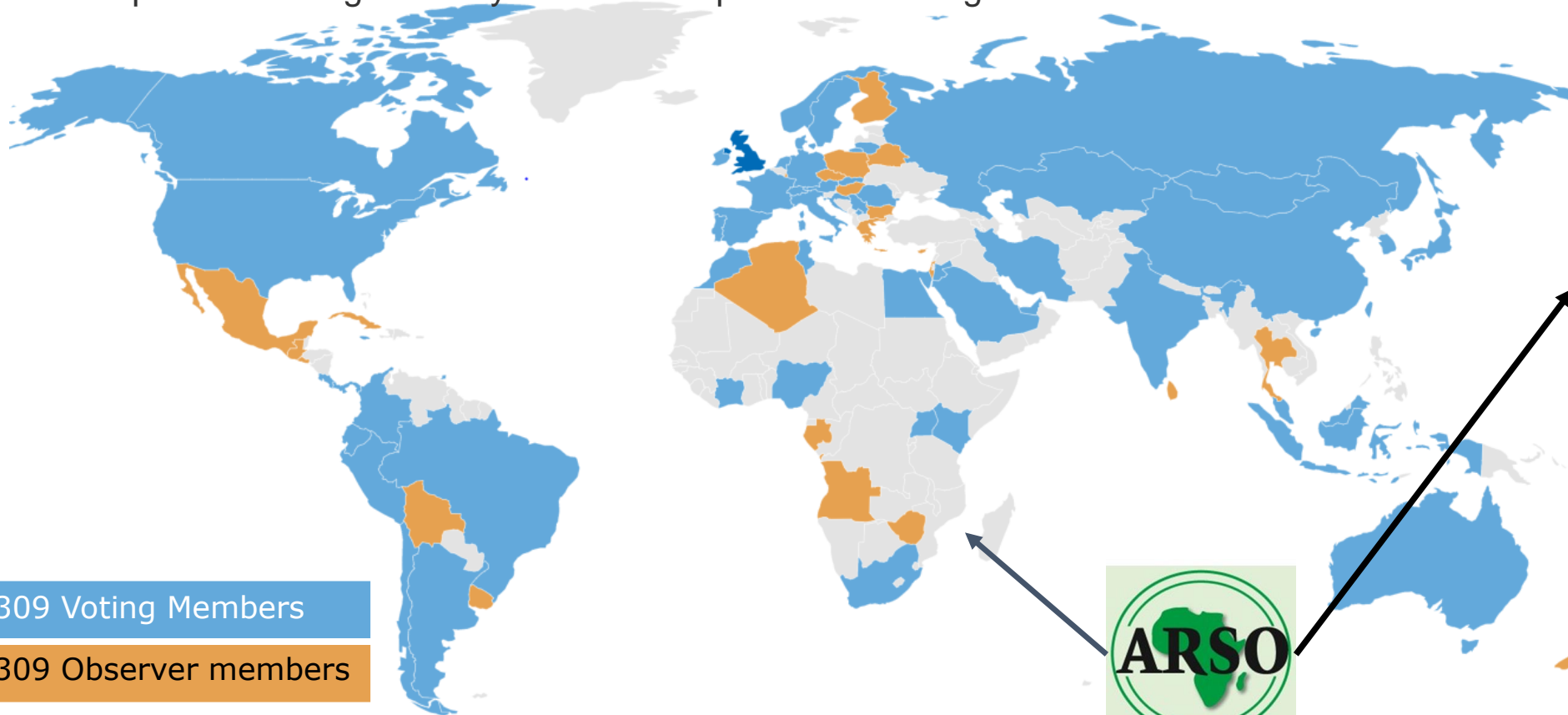


- Bring 30 million people out of extreme poverty and to raise the incomes of 68 million others who live on less than \$5.50 per day.
- Trade facilitation measures that cut red tape and simplify customs procedures would drive \$292 billion of the \$450 billion in potential income gains.
- Implementing AfCFTA would help usher in the kinds of deep reforms necessary to enhance long-term growth in African countries. (The World Bank)

Context: ISO Technical Committee 309 - Governance of Organisations – ISO 37000

1. Governance of Organisations (To be ISO 37000)
2. Anti-Bribery Management Systems (ISO 37301)
3. Whistleblowing management systems — Guidelines (ISO 37002)
4. Compliance management systems — Requirements with guidance for use

International standards represent international consensus regarding more effective and efficient standardisation



TC 309 Voting Members

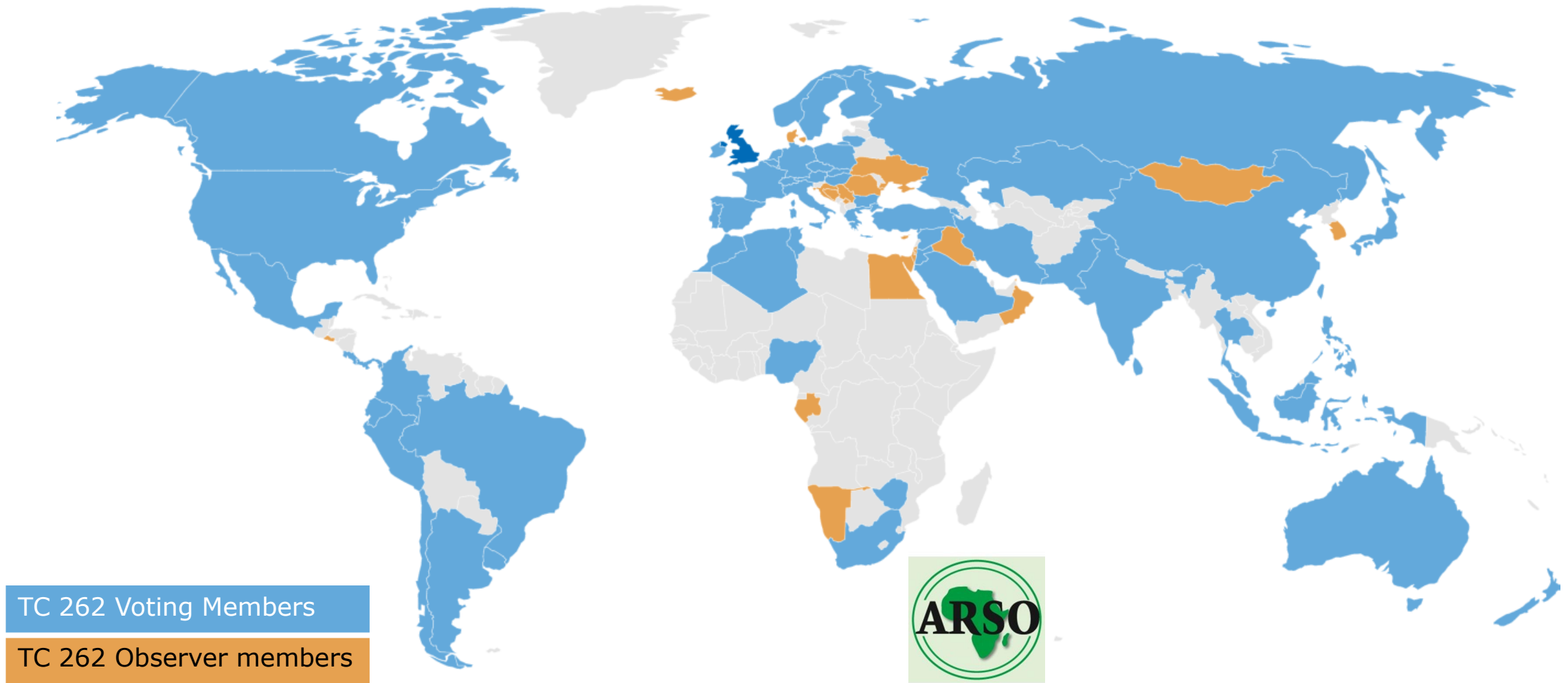
TC 309 Observer members

In appropriate cases, State Parties shall work in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations towards the establishment and adoption of common continental standards and criteria for recognition and common continental standards

Custom standards?

This map is designed to visually demonstrate the geographic distribution of our Members. The boundaries shown do not imply an official endorsement or acceptance by ISO.

Context: ISO 262 Risk Standards (ISO 31000)



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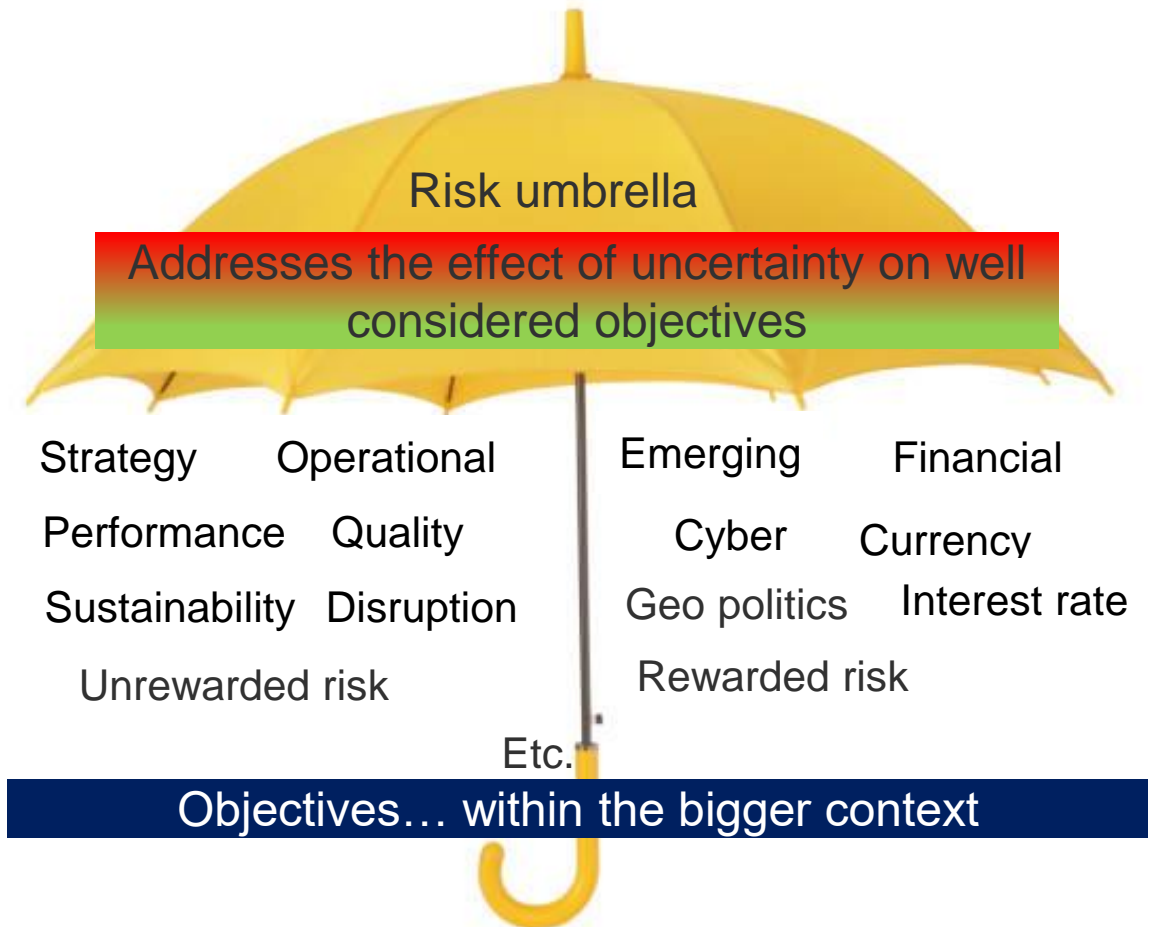
Why the Emphasis on Governance and Risk?

Governance

- **Governance of organizations** - human-based system by which an *organization* is directed, overseen and held accountable for achieving its defined purpose
- **Organizational governance framework** - strategies, *governance policies*, decision-making structures and *accountabilities* through which the *organization's* governance arrangements operate

Risk

- **Risk** – Effect of uncertainty on objectives
 - An effect is a deviation from the expected. It can be positive, negative or both, and can create, address or result in opportunities and threats.
 - Objectives could be applied to all levels.



AFCFTA Objectives

The principal objective is to create a single liberalised market for trade in services.
(Aligned with Africa Agenda 2063 and UN Sustainable Development Goals)

Target measure

The specific objective of this Protocol is to boost intra-African trade in goods through:

- (a) progressive elimination of tariffs;
- (b) progressive elimination of non-tariff barriers;
- (c) enhanced efficiency of customs procedures, trade facilitation and transit;
- (d) enhanced cooperation in the areas of technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- (e) development and promotion of regional and continental value chains; and
- (f) enhanced socio-economic development, diversification and industrialisation across Africa. (Part I, Article 2)



AFCFTA Objectives

The general objectives of the AfCFTA are to:

- (a) create a single market for goods, services, facilitated by movement of persons in order to deepen the **economic integration of the African continent and in accordance with the Pan African Vision of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa” enshrined in Agenda 2063;**
- (b) create a liberalised market for goods and services through successive rounds of negotiations;
- (c) contribute to the **movement of capital and natural persons** and facilitate investments building on the initiatives and developments in the State Parties and RECs;
- (d) lay the foundation for the establishment of a **Continental Customs Union at a later stage;**
- (e) promote and attain **sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development**, gender equality and structural transformation of the State Parties;
- (f) enhance the **competitiveness of the economies of State Parties** within the continent and the global market;
- (g) promote industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, agricultural development and food security; and
- (h) resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships and expedite the **regional and continental integration processes.** (Part II, Article 3)

Target measure

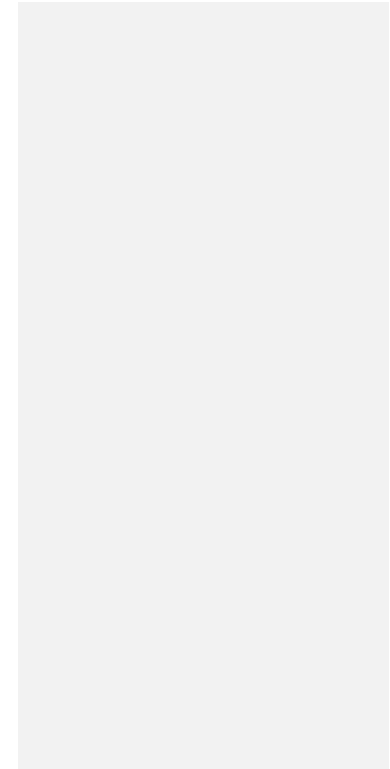


AfCFTA Objectives

For purposes of fulfilling and realising the objectives set out in Article 3, State Parties shall:

- (a) **progressively eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers** to trade in goods;
- (b) progressively liberalise trade in services;
- (c) cooperate on investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy;
- (d) cooperate on all trade-related areas;
- (e) cooperate on customs matters and the implementation of trade facilitation measures;
- (f) establish a mechanism for the settlement of disputes concerning their rights and obligations; and
- (g) **establish and maintain an institutional framework for the implementation and administration of the AfCFTA.** (Part 2, Article 4)

Target measure



Opportunity Associated with International Standard Application

- The link between trade, international standards and export competitiveness will be key to unlocking Africa's potential for economic growth. Product standards could be either a threat or an opportunity.
- Director General of World Trade Organization in 2006 noted that the absence of international standards can be a serious impediment to trade.
- Conformance assessment / certification. With cross-border trade an independent third party could be required to access the production processes, carry out testing, and certify products or systems.
 - ISO/IEC 17025 (valid laboratory testing),
 - ISO 17020 (Requirements for the competence of bodies performing inspection and for the impartiality and consistency of their inspection)and
 - ISO Guide 17065 (Rules for organizations that certify products)
 - ISO 37301 (Compliance)
 - ISO 9001 (Quality)
 - ISO 27001 (Information Security) and ISO 27701 (Privacy)
 - ISO 14001 (Environmental management)
 - ISO 50001 (Energy),
 - ISO 22242 (Road construction and road maintenance machinery and equipment — Basic types — Identification and description)
 - ISO 22000 – Food Safety Management System
 - Etc.



We are living in an integrated world – Africa is not an isolated island

Questions?

