FIRST DRAFT

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COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE (QI) MEETING
HELD AT TAJ PAMODZI HOTEL
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, 25 TO 28 OCTOBER 2011
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MEETING REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Tripartite harmonization programme derives its mandate from the First Tripartite Summit of the Heads of States and Government of the COMESA, EAC and SADC held in Kampala in October 2008. Harmonization of programmes now constitutes an integral activity among the three Regional Economic Communities**.** The tripartite cooperation has fostered progress in various areas such as transport facilitation including regional master plans for transport and energy, power interconnectors and North South Corridor Aid for Trade; customs harmonization, integrated border management systems, regional customs bond, simplification and harmonization of cross border procedures and regulatory requirements; NTBs; SPS; Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), rules of origin, services, intellectual property rights, dispute settlement, climate change, trade remedies, and standards**.**

2. The Second Tripartite Summit of The Heads of States and Government of the COMESA-EAC and SADC was held in Johannesburg, in June 2011, under the theme

"*Deepening COMESA-EAC-SADC Integration*". The Heads of States and Government reaffirmed their political will and commitment, and adopted a developmental approach to the tripartite integration process that will be anchored on three pillars, namely: *Market integration*, *Infrastructure Development, and Industrial development.* The First Phase in the tripartite integration process includes negotiations on trade in goods and movement of persons, and built-in agenda in services and trade-related areas. Quality infrastructure falls under trade-related areas.

3. Quality infrastructure is an integral part of *Market integration*, *Infrastructure Development, and Industrial development*. Cognizant of this fact and the prevailing political will, and acknowledging that since October 2008 little progress had been made in the implementation of the agreed activities except for the development of draft **Principles and Procedures for the Development and Harmonization of Tripartite Standards**, Trade Mark Southern Africa (TMSA), supported a meeting of RECs Secretariat Experts in Nairobi, Kenya, on 6th June 2011, to review the status of implementation of activities from 2008 to 2011, and agree on the way forward.

4. As a result of this meeting of REC experts, TMSA agreed to support a meeting of regional experts working groups (SQA/SQAM/SQMT) to make plans for the implementation of outstanding activities in scientific and industrial metrology, legal metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment. In addition, it was agreed that the modalities of getting Member States endorsement of the draft harmonization procedures would be discussed, and a road map developed for the harmonization of identified standards important for trade. Specifically, the meeting was expected to address the following:

   a) Finalize and adopt the draft Principles and Procedures for the Development and Harmonization of Tripartite Standards;
   b) Identify and agree tripartite standards to be harmonized;
   c) Develop a tripartite SQA/SQAM/SQMT work programmes in standardization, metrology, legal metrology and accreditation; and
   d) Develop a tripartite cooperation model for Conformity Assessment.

5. Subsequently, a meeting was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 25 to 28 October 2011, to address the above issues. The meeting was attended by 59 delegates from 23 countries, namely Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

OPENING OF THE MEETING
6. The meeting was officially opened by **H.E. Mr Sindiso Ngwenya, COMESA Secretary General and Chair of the Tripartite Task Force.** In his speech, the Secretary General:
   a. Extended a warm welcome to the delegates on behalf of the Tripartite Task Force and congratulated Zambia for the peaceful transition following the recently held elections;
   b. Gave a historical background to the tripartite process, culminating in the 2nd Heads of State Summit held in Johannesburg in June 2011;
   c. Informed the meeting that;
      i. There can be no peace without development;
      ii. The Quality Infrastructure should be seen as a means of trade facilitation;

iii. The EU has made progress because it has harmonized its standards, building on what existed and allowing for flexibility and a simplified and speedier harmonization processes; and that

iv. Canada has also empirically identified the value of standardization.

d. Urged delegates to:
   i. Adopt shorter standards development processes;
   ii. Propose viable modalities for the tripartite and ensure that the private sector is involved in all these activities; and
   iii. Ensure that standards become a catalyst for industrial development in the tripartite.

7. The official opening was preceded by remarks from the Chair for the day, **Mr Chance Kabaghe,** Agricultural Economist and Former Lecturer at the University of Zambia, Chairman of key agricultural industries including, SEEDCO, Freshpikt, Capital Fisheries; President of the Zambia Association of Manufacturers and the Zambia Business Forum, and a Board Member of the COMESA Business Council. He urged delegates to come up with pragmatic decisions and implementable recommendations for the way forward because the product of the deliberations is for the benefit of the business community, who are by their nature responsive and pragmatic.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

8. Following the Official Opening, power point presentations below outlined the regional and Pan African context for Quality Infrastructure, and were made by Trade Mark of Southern Africa, AU-New Partnership for African Development (AU- NEPAD), Africa Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC**),** African Regional Standardization Organization **(**ARSO), Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), COMESA, EAC and SADC.

9. TMSA highlighted the background to the tripartite process including the way forward; the AU-NEPAD focused on the developments in Africa for QI; AFRAC covered the evolution of accreditation in Africa in response to the global trends; ARSO emphasized its advocacy role for RECs in the harmonization of standards in Africa; AFRIMETS highlighted its galvanizing role in industrial/scientific and legal metrology while COMESA, EAC and SADC briefed the meeting on their respective structures for QI, key achievements and challenges.

Trade Mark of Southern Africa

10. The Representative from **TMSA, Charles Chaitenzi,** updated the meeting on TMSA and on the tripartite FTA discussions to date. He informed delegates that:
    a. The early days of the tripartite began with bilateral cooperation between SADC/COMESA, and COMESA/EAC cooperation, which led to COMESA/EAC/SADC Tripartite Cooperation in 2006.
    b. In the initial stages, tripartite cooperation was in the areas of trade including the EPAs, Customs Cooperation and Infrastructure Development.
    c. This cooperation culminated in the October-2008 Summit in Kampala, Uganda, whose purpose would ultimately lead to:,
       I. Creation of a grand Free Trade Area made up of 26 countries;
       II. Creation of a single customs union;
       III. Merger of the three RECs;
       IV. An MoU on inter-REC cooperation that dealt with issues relating to:
          i. Trade liberalization;
          ii. The development of joint infrastructure, agricultural development, food security programmes amongst others, as

well as the preparation of regional positions in multilateral trade fora; and

      iii.   The institutional arrangements.

d. The 2nd Summit held in Johannesburg in June 2011 agreed on a strategy which had three main pillars;

    I.   Market Integration, which has two main components:

       i.   The tripartite FTA

       ii.   The removal of NTBs and the implementation of trade facilitation programmes to improve the region's competitiveness and reduce the cost of intra-regional trade

    II.   Infrastructure Development

    III.   Industrial development

e. A two phase negotiations roadmap was agreed in which SPS and TBT issues would be dealt with in Phase I of the negotiations

f. Finally, the TMSA Representative considered it timely to establish a common technical regulatory body in the region supported by the appropriate SQA/SQAM/SQMT infrastructure.

AU-New Partnership for African Development (AU- NEPAD)

11. The AU/NEPAD Representative, **Walter Okoko**, gave a guiding presentation on the current continent-wide work on Quality Infrastructure, highlighting that:

a) The basis of the work on Quality Infrastructure and trade facilitation is reflected in Chapter XI of the Abuja Treaty of 1991 that established the Africa Economic Commission. In the Treaty, Member States agree to cooperate in accordance with the provisions of the protocol on Standardization, Quality Assurance and Measurement Systems.

b) The Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) is in its developmental stage.

c) ARSO, AFRIMETS, AFSEC and AFRAC are the main pillars of the QI platform, which will link the Pan African QI to the International system.

d) Work is currently underway to obtain AU recognition to ensure political support at the highest level.

e) Harmonization to take into consideration the needs of the industry.

f) The three most important things that investors look for in a country, namely:

    i.   A Quality Infrastructure that supports industry,

    ii.   Currency stability, and

    iii.   National security

Africa Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC)

11. Representing the Africa Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC)**, Ron Josias** made a presentation in which he dealt with:

a) The economic challenges facing the continent and the increased demand by importing countries for competence of conformity assessment bodies to enhance mutual recognition;

b) The role of accreditation in international trade and the fact that there is increasing use of internationally recognized standards to accredit conformity assessment bodies in order to determine their competence;

c) The international response to the recognition of accreditation bodies and the role of SADCAS (the SADC Accreditation Cooperation body) in these arrangements;

d) Accreditation developments in Africa, particularly the role of SANAS, SADCAS, KENAS (Kenya), MAURITAS(Mauritius),EGAG and TUNAC(Tunisia);

e) An analysis of the existing accreditation infrastructure and the extent to which each has attained international recognition;

f) Current activities underway within AFRAC which recently held its 2nd General Assembly; and

g) AFRAC's medium term focus, as well as the action programme up to 2015.

African Regional Standardization Organization (ARSO)

13. A presentation by **Andrew Maiyo,** Secretary General of African Regional Standardization Organization highlighted that:

a) There was low uptake of standards owing to multiple factors, and that whereas standards are developed by National Standards Bodies, the uptake was 100 per cent except for unique products.

b) In line with its new Strategic Plan 2009-2014, ARSO is signing MoUs with RECs to promote the widest and consistent application of harmonized standards, regulations and rules of procedure in all spheres for improved intra and extra regional trade.

c) ARSO derives its impact from RECs, therefore the stronger the RECs, the stronger will ARSO become in its advocacy role with umbrella standards bodies, and all relevant stakeholders.

Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS)

14. **Donald Masuku**, representing the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), gave a presentation on the work of AFRIMETS and on the importance of metrology in trade. He pointed out that:

a) AFRIMETS is the intra-metrology system for Africa established in 2006 as the Regional Metrology Organization (RMO), representing Africa in the structures of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML). Prior to the establishment of AFRIMETS in 2006, the Southern Africa Development Community Cooperation in Metrology (SADCMET) was the regional metrology organization representing Africa. However the membership of SADCMET was limited to the 15 SADC member States and a few associate members from other African countries. AFRIMETS has been structured to cover both scientific/industrial metrology and legal metrology.

b) Inadequacies in metrology, which is the cornerstone of a Quality Infrastructure, can lead to an uncompetitive manufacturing industry and limited access to export markets, the inability to protect against unsafe local or imported products, ineffective environmental monitoring, and to the failure of a national health or law enforcement system.

c) Accurate measurement and the acceptance of measurement results internationally can only be achieved through a proper, benchmarked national metrology system (supported by accreditation).

d)   The primary aim of AFRIMETS is to harmonise scientific, industrial and legal metrology issues across Africa and to operate as a fully-fledged RMO, fulfilling the obligations as stipulated in the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the International Committee for Weights and Measures, the CIPM MRA.

e)   Sub Regional Metrology Organizations (SRMOs) are the Principal members of AFRIMETS. The organization has been designed with the geographic spread, free trade zones or customs unions and language in mind.

f)   The six Sub-RMOs (made up of SADCMET/SADCMEL, SOAMET,CEMACMET, MAGMET, NEWMET) together with one ordinary member (Sierra Leone)) have three main functions:

   i.   To establish confidence in measurements between neighbouring trading partners in economic blocks in support of intra-regional trade,
   ii.   To participate in the activities of AFRIMETS to establish confidence in measurements at the international level, and
   iii.   To adopt, establish and harmonise Legal Metrology laws and regulations.

Intra-Tripartite Trade by Representative from COMESA Secretariat

15. In order to get an insight into the extent and the type of goods that are most traded in the tripartite, an economist from the COMESA Secretariat, Antony Walakira, made a presentation on intra-tripartite trade. It was noted that:

a)   Intra-tripartite trade for COMESA-EAC-SADC had grown by 231% in 2010 over the 2000 levels, from US$ 16.9 billion in 2000 to a remarkable US$ 55.9 billion in 2010.

b)   Overall, the intra-tripartite trade had continued to grow over the period 2000 – 2008, before the drop to US$ 52.1 billion in 2009 owing to the economic recession that affected most countries in the world.

c)   Over the period 2000 – 2009, the trade balance for intra-tripartite trade was negative, meaning the region was importing more that it was exporting; however, in 2010, the trade balance registered a positive US$ 2.3 billion. The Table 1 below depicts the performance of intra-tripartite trade.

Table 1

Intra-Tripartite Trade, Values in US$ millions

Flow	2000	2007	2008	2009	2010
Exports	7,423	19,450	26,146	23,170	27,589
Re-exports	282	803	766	1,059	1,571
Total exports	7,705	20,253	26,913	24,228	29,161
Imports	**9,212**	**22,557**	**28,945**	**27,934**	**26,819**
Total tradae	**16,917**	**42,810**	**55,858**	**52,162**	**55,979**
Trade balance	**-1,507**	**-2,304**	**-2,032**	**-3,705**	**2,342**

Source: COMSTAT and UN COMTRADE Databases

d)   Global tripartite trade performance over the same period also depicted similar levels of growth, from US$ 112.1 billion in 2000 to US$ 484.5 billion in 2010.

e) The meeting was further informed that the overall percentage of intra-tripartite trade to global tripartite trade had dropped from 15% in 2000 to 12% in 2010, implying that countries in the tripartite region traded relatively less amongst one another.

f) Regarding the export destination markets for the tripartite region, it was reported that South Africa ranked number one over the period 2008 – 2010. Ranked second after South Africa was Zambia, over the same period.

g) In 2010, goods worth US$ 7.2 billion from the region were exported to South Africa, implying an export market share of 25%.

h) On the import side, South Africa was still ranked number one as an import market for goods traded within the tripartite region over the period 2008 – 2010.

i) In 2010, imports within the region worth US$ 13.1 billion originated from South Africa, signifying a percentage share of 48.9. Ranked in second position was Egypt, in 2009 and 2010 while Angola was ranked second in 2008.

j) Overall, petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, both crude and other than crude were the top most traded products in value terms within the tripartite region in 2010. Ranked second after the petroleum oils was gold (including gold plated with platinum), followed by cane or beat sugar.

k) COMESA Secretariat, together with COMESA Business Council, had a Trade Flow Analysis and Export Scans programme aimed at identifying cross border products and encourage sourcing from within the tripartite region. The trade flow analysis focused on agricultural and non-agricultural products, and the issue of Standards and NTBs will be addressed.

Status of Regional Cooperation in East African Community

16. The Status of Regional Cooperation in the East African Community was provided by **Willy Musinguzi**, Principal Standards Officer. The following were highlighted:

a. Cooperation in Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing (SQMT) in EAC Partner States was provided in the following legal documents of the Community: (i) East African Treaty, Article 81 of the Treaty, (ii) The EAC SQMT Protocol, 2001 (iii) The EAC SQMT Act, 2006. In General, the legal documents provide for harmonization of National and EAC standards with International standards to enhance compliance and facilitate regional and international trade;

b. In order to enhance cooperation, the EAC has established regional and national Quality Infrastructures to implement the provisions of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006. The Structures implement EAC standards in order to facilitate cross border trade and protect consumers from sub -standards goods in the Community;

c. On achievements so far realized , EAC has published 1,200 EAC standards, harmonized product certifications to promote acceptability of compliant products to EAC published standards especially across borders, and

d. On challenges encountered in the EAC cooperation in SQMT, it was noted that inadequate awareness on SQMT among stakeholders, few emerging standards related Non-Tariff Barriers, among others, were still existing and affecting cross border trade.

COMESA Collaboration in Quality Infrastructure

17. **Andrew Ngone,** Senior Standards Expert, gave an overview of the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite cooperation and highlighted the achievements made in various aspects of regional integration including transport instruments, customs harmonization, integrated border management systems, regional customs bond, simplification and harmonization of cross border procedures and regulatory requirements; regional master plans for transport and energy and power interconnectors; North South Corridor Aid for Trade; NTBs, SPS, CAADP, and Climate Change. With regard to Technical Standards, progress was summarized as follows:

h) In 2002, Council established the Committee on Standardization and Quality Assurance (SQA) to implement the provisions of Chapter 15 of the Treaty. The current structure of the SQA programme consists of Sub Committees on Harmonization of Standards, Accreditation, Metrology (Industrial and Scientific and Legal Metrology), Testing and Quality Assurance, and on Technical Regulations.The Sub Committee on Technical Regulations is being operationalized.

i) In addition, the SQA Unit is also responsible for Pharmaceutical harmonization which is expected to be achieved through the work of the Technical Working Group Steering Committee on Pharmaceutical Harmonization. The recommendations for the Steering Committee are channeled to Council through the SQA Committee.

j) A Regional Policy on Standardization and Quality Assurance has been developed as a guide in the development and implementation of programmes in all areas of Standardization and Quality Assurance.

k) There are 370 COMESA harmonized standards including 65 electrical standards approved in 2011. Some countries have adopted COMESA standards, for example, out of national standards, Burundi has adopted 108, Seychelles 56 out of 255, Kenya 300 out of 6,000, Malawi 79 out of 724, Uganda 305 out of 1,700, and Zimbabwe 100 out of 1,700.

l)   Draft Guidelines for Harmonization of Medicines and Drugs Regulations have been developed, covering various issues relating to practices in the drugs and medicines industry.

m)   COMESA Member States have agreed to initiate at the technical level a Framework for provision of Accreditation services in Member States to enhance the Accreditation services in the Region.

n)   There is on-going work to develop a Regional Framework in Metrology and Legal Metrology to build confidence and mutual recognition.

o)   A programme on a Proficiency Testing Scheme has been approved and initiated to enhance testing capacities.

p)   Draft Technical Regulations have been developed but will be considered by a Sub Committee on Technical Regulations once established.

q)   COMESA has worked with EAC and SADC in jointly developing principles and procedures for the development of tripartite standards since 2008, and has an MoU with ARSO.

r)   COMESA detailed work programme on Quality Infrastructure for the 2012 benefited from EAC and SADC representation.

s)   Challenges faced by COMESA in Standardization activities include:

- Limited involvement of private sector (especially SMEs)
- Lack of awareness creation of the importance of standards
- Limited understanding of standards and technical regulations
- Inadequate human resources and facilities leading to weak institutions
- Diverse approaches for technical regulations
- Slow or cumbersome legislation
- Capacity building (skills development)
- Lack of expertise in some areas of standardization processes within QI
- Low uptake of ICT for Standards activities
- Limited language translation
- Lack of simplification of standards for lay persons
- Overlapping mandates among institutions
- Low level of implementation

SADC Collaboration in Quality Infrastructure

18.The Representative of SADC, **Dr Elsie Meintjies**, presented the SADC Secretariat and the structure of the Trade, Investment, Finance and Investment Directorate (TIFI)

organizational structures. The Standards, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) programme is managed through TIFI. In her presentation, she highlighted that:

a. Harmonization of standards and related activities constitute a key component in regional integration through trade and investment.

b. The objectives of the SADC SQAM Programme are:

   i. To eliminate Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) amongst the Member States, and between SADC and other Regional and International Trading Blocks, and

   ii. To promote quality and the development of an infrastructure for quality in the Member States.

c. The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures to the SADC Protocol on Trade was approved by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade on 12 July 2008, Lusaka, Zambia, and that these annexes are the Regional response to WTO SPS and TBT Agreements. The annexes represent the strategy to balance the need to protect humans, animals and environment from harmful or unsafe products versus the need to facilitate trade. The general approach is to base measures on international standards.

d. The objectives of the Annex are to establish a common technical regulation framework, supported by appropriate regional TBT Cooperation Structures. Article 2 of the TBT annex and the general functions, rules, aims, and membership of the cooperation structures are defined in the TBT annex, which is available on www.sadc.int/tifi/sqam.

e. Provision is made in the annex to the protocol on Trade for seven (7) regional TBT coordination structures. These are the SADC Technical Regulation Liaison Committee (SADCTRLC), SADC TBT Stakeholders Committee (SADCTBTSC), SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA), SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADCMEL), SADC Cooperation in Measurement Traceability (SADCMET), SADC Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN) and SADC SQAM Expert Group (SQAMEG). The work of the structures is carried out by way of policy and technical meetings, seminars and workshops.

f. Article 6 states that "Member States recognize that the purpose of harmonization or making compatible is not to establish identical technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures for the protection of human, animal or plant life and health, prevention of deceptive practices and protection of the environment, but to facilitate and increase trade in goods and services".

g. Significant development in SADC has been the formation of the Southern African Accreditation System (SADCAS) as a subsidiary organization of

SADC. This organization is working in collaboration with SANAS for international recognition of certificates issued.

h. Regional technical structures are now operational, three model laws have been drafted viz., Standards, Metrology (combined) and Product Safety laws, and extensive training on SQAM functions have been conducted through technical training courses, seminars, workshops, attachments, study tours, attendance at international meetings etc.

i. The SADC SQAM programme collaborates with other programmes such as Food Safety – capacity building in residue control project with EC/Food Agriculture Natural Resources (FANR), the Industrial Upgrading and the Modernization Programme (TIFI).

j. The Challenges faced by SADC are similar to those faced by COMESA and EAC.

k. A SQAM infrastructure takes 15-25 years to build and that long-term planning and commitment is necessary. The rate of uptake of standards and conformity assessment services by Public and Private sectors is cause for concern. It is imperative that the available SQAM infrastructure be used to facilitate trade.

l. Each of the Technical Structures has its work programmes and would now have to include tripartite aspects as well. The contribution of Member States, International Co-operating Partners, COMESA and EAC participation was acknowledged, as was the contribution made by Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu, the former Senior Programme Officer – SQAM.

Summaries of the Expert Working Groups

19. On Day 2 and 3, delegates formed three Expert Working Groups on Standards Development, Metrology and Accreditation and Conformity Assessment in line with the objectives of the meeting. The summaries of deliberations of the Working Groups and resolutions are attached (**Annexes 4, 5 and 6**). However, the resolutions and recommendations are highlighted here below:

Overarching Recommendations

20. Further to the resolutions and recommendations made in the individual Expert Working Group meetings, the delegates collectively resolved to make the following overarching recommendations:

1. **The Tripartite Task Force** establishes a cooperation structure for regulatory agencies within the tripartite to facilitate harmonisation of regulatory frameworks and technical regulations.

2. **The Tripartite Task Force** analyzes and replicates those standardisation interventions that have been carried out by RECs and that have proved successful in facilitating regional trade.

3. **The Tripartite Task Force** establishes a Tripartite Committee consisting of representatives of the Standards, Metrology, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment Institutions to coordinate and address issues of Standardisation, Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation (SMCA).

Resolutions of the Individual Expert Groups

(a) Sub Committee on Tripartite Standards

21. The Sub Committee on Tripartite Standards reviewed the Draft Principles and procedures for the Development and harmonization of Tripartite Standards, mapped out the way forward within timelines, reviewed the draft work programme, proposed a structure for the harmonization of standards, and made the following resolutions in order to advance the harmonization of tripartite standards**:**

Resolutions on Tripartite Standards

1. Adopt the standards harmonization programme and mobilize/offer resources for its implementation;

2. Take note of the progress made in the preparation of the Principles and Procedures for the Development and Harmonization of Tripartite Standards. The Task Force to urge member states through the three RECs to complete the principles and procedures through Member States as per the agreed timelines in the standards work programme;

3. Initiate the development of a public awareness strategy with regard to the harmonization of Tripartite Standards and related Quality Infrastructure activities;

4. Establish an advisory expert group composed of Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, and South Africa to assist in the implementation of the draft standards work plan; and

5. Seek further financial support from Trade Mark Southern Africa to i) facilitate the standardization experts negotiate the Tripartite FTA Annex on TBT issues, and to ii) finalize (together with editing) and approve the Principles and Procedures for the Development and Harmonization of Tripartite Standards

(b) Expert Group on Metrology

22. The Expert Group on Metrology reviewed the status of metrology in the RECs, areas common to COMESA, EAC and SADC; developed a Tripartite Cooperation Model so as to leverage on the existing national, regional and international structures, and came up with a Working Model/Structure for both Industrial/Scientific and Legal Metrology. The Group made the following Resolutions:

Resolutions on Metrology

1. Tripartite Task Force is requested to ensure that COMESA aligns its Industrial/Scientific Metrology and Legal Metrology Structures with AFRIMETS Structures in order to participate as full Sub-Regional Metrology Organization (SRMO) and Sub-Regional Legal Metrology Organization (SRLMO).

2. Tripartite Task Force is requested to coordinate the establishment of Industrial/Scientific Metrology and Legal Metrology Coordinating Committees by requesting each REC to nominate official representatives as per proposed Cooperation/Working Model and to facilitate the first meeting.

3. Tripartite Task Force is requested to impress upon the Tripartite Member States the importance of funding and supporting the activities in the Industrial/Scientific Metrology and Legal Metrology Work Programmes.

4. The RECs are requested to give their full support to activities of the Industrial/Scientific Metrology and Legal Metrology Work Programmes at the regional level.

(c) Expert Group on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment

23. The Expert Accreditation and Conformity Assessment considered the existing accreditation models in COMESA, EAC and SADC and noted that COMESA accreditation framework is still to be developed; EAC had established the East African Accreditation Board under SQMT Act 2006 and focal points existed in countries without accreditation bodies; SADC had established SADCAS as the first multi-economy accreditation body in the world, and that SANAS and MAURITAS had been established. From these initiatives, AFRAC has been established. The following resolutions are to advance the accreditation and conformity assessment cooperation among the three RECs and Africa in general.

Resolutions on the Tripartite Accreditation Cooperation Model

1. The tripartite focal point is to coordinate tripartite accreditation efforts.

2. The Tripartite Accreditation 'Forum' is to be constituted in 6 – 12 months as a matter of urgency.

3. The East African Accreditation Board, COMESA structure and SADCA to be the coordinating structures/focal points for accreditation in the tripartite using SADCA's aims without the MRA wording. This will form the basis for the operation of the Tripartite Accreditation 'Forum"

4. The coordination of accreditation activities will be the responsibility of the REC who is chairing the tripartite at the time on a rotational basis.

5. Each REC (corresponding accreditation coordinating body) is encouraged to participate in AFRAC.

6. The existing accreditation bodies are to be strengthened to gain international recognition at International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

7. An analysis is to be undertaken on what accreditation activities are currently in progress in each of the countries in the tripartite.

8. Accreditation bodies and NAFPs in each country are to be included in the Tripartite Accreditation 'Forum' to meet and discuss activities.

9. The Tripartite Accreditation 'Forum' is to meet at least once a year.

Resolutions on Tripartite Conformity Assessment Cooperation Model

1. There is need to establish a working group for Conformity Assessment in the tripartite region.

2. The public and private sector conformity assessment bodies must have a forum to discuss a cooperation framework.

3. Possible projects on capacity building for Conformity Assessment Service Providers are to be identified.

4. A gap analysis and needs assessment is to be undertaken to establish capacity gaps with focus on the most traded product within the tripartite region.

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