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The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

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AFRICA DAY 2021

**“ AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION:
LEVERAGING INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) FOR DEEPER
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN AFRICA ”**

RAPPORTEUR’S REPORT

BY

Ms OUMMI DIAWARA

**FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

3pm - 5pm

MODERATOR, SPECIAL GUEST, SPEAKERS ET PANELISTS

Moderator:

- **Mr. Dozie Celeste UGOCHUKWU**, AFMD, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland

Opening of the session:

- **Ms. Pat SANTSCHI**, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland, AFMD, ‘Ajere African Heritage’

Special Guest:

- **Ms. S.E. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, (excused), Representative of AfCFTA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana

Speakers:

- **Dr. Fikremarkos Merso**, Senior Expert on IPR, African Union, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia
- **Dr. iur. Ituku Elangi Botoy**, Industrial Property Information Officer, Technology and Innovation Support Division, IP and Innovation Ecosystems, World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO, Geneva
- **Dr. Abake Adenle**, CEO & Founder, AJA.LA Studios, A London-based AI startup working on speech and NLU applications for under-resourced languages, London, UK
- **Neema Nyerere Drago**, MD, NND Consulting, IP & Brands “Authenticity 4 Growth”, Butiama, Tanzania / Geneva
- **Neo Theodore Tlhaselo**, Founding Director, Conversation with Africa, CWA Gaborone, Botswana (excused)

Closing the session by:

- **Alexis Nshimimana Neuberg**, President, Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform, ADEPT, Brussels, Belgium

I. OPENING SESSION

By Ms. Pat SANTSCHI, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland, AFMD, 'Ajere African Heritage'

The 2021 Africa Day theme is “**AFCFTA implementation: leveraging intellectual property rights (IPR) for deeper economic integration in Africa**”

1. The African Diaspora Council of Switzerland (ADCS) is honoured and proud to organize this Virtual Conference on the **AFCFTA implementation: leveraging intellectual property rights (IPR) for deeper economic integration in Africa**
2. The present Conference is running into two (2) languages: English and French. Any participant can choose the language of his/her choice. Chat functions can be used to make this conference interactive.
3. Africa is proud to have given birth to one brainchild, artist innovator, genius, scientist, lawyer, industrialist and other scientists.
4. Intellectual Property Rights remains a challenge for Know-how and Technology transfer that Africa urgently needs for industrial development.
5. Encourage Africa to stay united and optimistic as they build the continent of their dreams.

By Mr. Dozie Celeste UGOCHUKWU, AFMD, African Diaspora Council of Switzerland

6. The launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations in 2015, now operational since January this year, was distinctive in that AU Heads of State and Government agreed that negotiations on trade in goods and in services would be conducted simultaneously.
7. The practice has been to negotiate trade in goods first, and services subsequently. From this perspective, the conclusion of the negotiations was made. The official launch of the AfCFTA in July 2019 was remarkable.
8. However, the negotiations do not stop here. At the start of the process in 2015, the AU had set the tone for a deeper level of integration by committing to take up some so-called ‘WTO-plus issues’ in a second phase of the negotiations.
9. These issues include, but are not limited to, investment, competition policy and **intellectual property rights (IPR)**. E-commerce and digital trade could be another issue.

10. Phase II negotiations was initially scheduled and to be concluded by December 2020 and Phase III negotiations to commence immediately after the conclusion of Phase II.
11. This deadline was missed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The AU Assembly has set 31 December 2021 as the deadline for the conclusion of Phase II and III negotiations¹.
12. Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as technological inventions, literary and artistic works and symbols, and names and images used in commerce. IP rights (IPR) are meant to prevent others from using, making or selling the item on which the rights are conferred. They include patents, trademarks, copyright, industrial designs, geographical indications (GI), plant breeder rights, and utility models².
13. IPR serve as a policy tool to promote private investment and entrepreneurship, innovation and competition. As such, they are crucial to realizing the objectives of the AU's Agenda 2063, which prioritizes science and innovation as drivers of structural transformation and value addition in Africa.
14. The AfCFTA provides an opportunity to advance an IP rights system that corresponds to the aspirations of Agenda 2063.
15. IP rights are territorial. They apply and are enforced only within the country in which they are granted. This has inspired international cooperation to harmonize the laws and administration of IP rights beginning in the nineteenth century and leading on to the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) in 1994.
16. The TRIPs Agreement signals the multilateralization of IP rights. It sets an international minimum standard with which every WTO member should comply.
17. The Agreement incorporates substantive provisions of several WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) treaties and, unlike GATT and GATS, it does not exempt RTAs established after it had come into force from providing better treatment to countries that are party to those agreements. This means that an IP protocol reached in the context of the AfCFTA must be extended to all WTO member-states³.
18. This present conference, which is part of the **Diaspora Engagement Dialogue Series**, will focus and enlighten on the AfCFTA IPR Protocol provisions that will feature in Phases II legal instrument.
19. The background, rationale, objectives and possible approaches of AfCFTA IPR Protocol, creation of IP Innovation Ecosystems of the real

¹ tralac.org

² ECA et al., 2019

³ ECA et al, 2019

⁴ William Kankwamba, *the boy who harnessed the wind*

development of Africa will be discussed. It provides a platform to share and exchange on the role of the Diaspora in the development of Intellectual Property in Africa as well as in the host countries, thus making their contributions to the on-going negotiations.

20. The webinar equally provides an opportunity to strengthen and extend the network of the Diaspora and other stakeholders both in countries of origin and residence.
21. Participation is open to the diaspora communities, sixth region of Africa, business community, policy makers, academia, CSOs as well as other major stakeholders.

II. PRESENTATION

By Dr. Fikremarkos Merso , Senior Expert on IPR , African Union, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

Presentation: “AfCFTA creating one African market”

22. On 21st March 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda, Africa made history by opening for signature, the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.
23. The AfCFTA Agreement entered into force on 30th May 2019.
24. To-date, 54 countries have signed and 36 have ratified the Agreement.
25. Start of Implementation phase on 1 January 2021
26. One of the flagship projects under Agenda 2063: Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future.
27. Aims to accelerate intra-African trade and boost Africa’s trading position in the global market place.
28. The problems the AfCFTA aims to address:
 - African businesses face over 107 unique land borders when trading with the continent paying average 6.9% of tariff while crossing those borders.
 - There is a range of non-tariff barriers across the continent. Each country has a right to design its own non-tariff barriers; it is difficult to quantify the numbers of non-tariff barriers in the continent.
 - Africa is characterized as a place where doing business is quite challenging for small and medium enterprises and innovators.

- AfCFTA is designed to address the challenges of Africa entrepreneurs, traders, business people, and so on.
29. AfCFTA as a legal framework aims to ease the flow of goods and services across national borders.
 30. AfCFTA as a unique market brings together 1.27 billion Africans with combined GDP of 3.4 trillions dollars.
 31. AfCFTA as a market shared by 55 African Union Member States that committed to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers on trade in goods as well as facilitating free movement of services across the continent.
 32. The nature of negotiations and implementations follows phases approach:
 - **Phase I to negotiation** includes Protocol on Trade in Goods, Protocol on Trade in Services and Protocol on Rules and Procedures for the Settlement of Disputes. The above protocols together with the AfCFTA Agreement have already been adopted.
 - **Phase II to negotiation** includes Protocol on Competition, Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights, Protocol on Investment and Protocol on E-Commerce.
 33. These issues are interconnected:
 - It is very difficult to disconnect the issue of trading services from investment; or to disconnect trading goods from the intellectual property for example.
 - They are being addressed holistically even if the negotiations are taking 2 phases.
 34. The link between intellectual property and AfCFTA framework:
 - **The AU Agenda 2063:**
 - Africa needs to prioritise science and innovation-driven manufacturing, industrialisation and value addition, economic diversification and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - Africa's human capital should be developed "...through sustained investments in higher education, science, technology, research and innovation..."
 - Africa's agriculture should be modern and productive, using science, technology, innovation and indigenous knowledge.
 - African needs to build and expand an African knowledge society through transformation and investments in universities, science, technology, research and innovation.

35. The IP protocol AfCFTA is expected to build its IP instruments system that has been developed on the existing African Union Intellectual Property instruments:

- Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA2024) which includes IP rights in its strategic objectives
- Continental Strategy for Geographical Indications in Africa 2018 2023
- African Model Law For The Protection Of The Rights Of Local Communities, Farmers And Breeders, And For The Regulation Of Access To Biological Resources
- African Union Practical Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya Protocol)
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have included some IP policies and instruments
- Two regional IP organizations: ARIPO and OAPI

36. Why an IP Protocol at the AfCFTA?

- To contribute to the continental agenda for increased intra-African trade and economic integration:
 - Intra-African trade cannot be complete without addressing IP issues.
 - IP issues are related to trade. IP may affect positively or negatively how trade rules operate. In order to increase intra-African trade, economic integration, IP plays an important role.
- To avoid discrimination on protection of IP rights among States parties.
- To fill the gaps in the international IP treaties (such as TRIPS Agreement) that require countries to develop norms at the national or regional level without any minimum standards.

It is important to note that these gaps are filled in such a way to be relevant to the Africa reality and context.

37. African leaders have already included IP as part of the AfCFTA negotiations.

38. What kind of approach should be followed? The approaches among African regions are:

- A regional cooperation framework without going into substantive IP rights.
- A single substantive law that will be applicable across the regions.
- A combination of the two: some cooperation framework and some substantive IP Law.

39. What value will the IP Protocol add to the existing system?

- The AfCFTA agreement protocol will be the first binding agreement applicable to the entire continent
- The first binding agreement that recognized the role of IPRs in facilitating intra-Africa trade
- The first agreement that subjects IPRs to the mandatory dispute settlement system under the AfCFTA

40. Practical considerations as going on with the negotiations:

- Feasibility to negotiate: negotiations involving with 55 countries in sensitive area like IP is not an easy task. Negotiators have to consider the feasibility to negotiate in order to reach at a consensus
- Preserving existing flexibilities in international or regional IP treaties
- Creating harmony (avoid conflict) with obligations that African countries have committed to in international and bilateral agreements
- Stakeholders engagement
- Capacity building at different levels and awareness creation

41. **Dr. Fikremarkos Merso** concluded that African leaders have included IP as a key element of the AfCFTA with a view to:

- Facilitate intra-Africa trade
- Participation in regional, continental and global value chains
- Attract and retain investment
- Encourage transfer of technology and know-how through trade
- Create employment opportunities, higher standard of living

By Dr. iur. Ituku Elangi Botoy, Industrial Property Information Officer, Technology and Innovation Support Division, IP and Innovation Ecosystems, World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO, Geneva

Presentation: “Intellectual property and innovation system for the development of Africa”

42. It is important to emphasize on the true size of Africa and the all natural resources.

43. Africa needs a revolution and the revolution will be in the work of intellectual property.

44. The map of Africa compasses USA, China, India, Eastern Europe, France, Germany, etc.

45. The way Africa is presented in the map, Africa seems very small: Africa was diminished psychologically. The geography experts should come together and find out how they can draw in its real size. Present and defend Africa everywhere.

46. Africa is the richest continent with all the natural resources. If for instance, gold remains underground it's just a metal. Africa must give value to all its natural resources.
47. When talking about trade, Africa needs to first match its natural resources. Intellectual Property is the tool that will help us match our resources. In one single country it is difficult to trade. There is a need to trade in the 55 countries.
48. Africa and many other African countries have been misled by the definition of intellectual property because the face of the IP they presented to us is only legal.
49. Intellectual Property law is just the application of Intellectual Property in the law field.
50. IP does not only have one face that is legal.
51. In the history of industrial property, Intellectual Property was never taught.
52. The legal came in when the first agreement was concluded in 1883 (the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial property). Three (3) years later, there was the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, 1886.
53. These 2 European conventions were brought around the world to show that this is intellectual property.
54. It should be noted the Intellectual Property is not mentioned in the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial property.
55. There is a need to sensitize Africa to use IP within its educational function.
56. In most of the countries in Africa, the IP is taught at the law faculties because they reduce intellectual property to the legal sense.
57. Africa is threatened by the legal complexity of intellectual property.
58. Africa has forgotten the educational function of intellectual property.
59. IP is just the work of the mind. It does have to deal with legal.
60. Once a person invents, he/she creates, that creation belongs to him/her. That person can seek protection from the State. That's when the IP Rights come in as the State has to protect the person by giving him/her a monopoly.
61. Before inventing there was no space for a right or a legal sense.
62. IP is the creation of the mind.

63. What is an innovation ecosystem?

- It is an organization. The input is the continent, **an independent variable**. The continent with all its natural resources existed before, it did not depend on anyone.
- The need to transform the natural resources by creating knowledge, by educating people. Output is what is going to be produced. This is a **dependent variable** i.e. it will depend on the logistics used at the beginning, and the natural resources will be transformed from then.

64. The IP Policy should not be just legal but educational. IP should be used to stimulate the creativity in any field of science, knowledge and technology. A IP revolution is needed in Africa.

65. **Dr. iur. Ituku Elangi Botoy** concluded by declaring that Africa should come together by putting means and logistics for the Intellectual Property liberation of Africa.

By Dr. Abake Adenle, CEO & Founder, AJALA Studios, A London-based AI startup working on speech and NLU applications for under-resourced languages, London, UK

*Presentation: “ajala, role of the diaspora in technology transfer and IP development - **Speech Technologies for African Languages**”*

66. ajala is a premier developer of technological solutions that understand and respond to voice commands in African languages.

67. It focuses on enterprises solutions that allow businesses to be able to communicate with customers in the local languages.

68. It also focuses on 3 main solutions: voice recognition and automatic speech recognition that convert speech to digital text; and text to speech.

69. It synthesizes speech from digital text and Converts speech into a unique and secure identifying metric (voice biometrics)

70. It currently supports 5 indigenous African languages across Nigeria, Kenya and Rwanda...

71. ajala is working with a large panafrican banks ; supports 20 languages.

72. The Language coverage is more than 200million speakers across 10 African countries.

73. The main reason on covering so many African languages is to breach gaps in terms of communicating or accessing information.

74. In order to have substantial impact, ajala should be able to support a number of languages
75. ajala focuses on helping enterprises that serve African customers automate voice-based customer service channels
76. The types of products
- Voice Recharge: Allows customers an easy way to top-up accounts
 - Voice Payment: Empowers mobile wallets and money transfers
 - Voice Verification: Protects sensitive transactions through biometrics
 - Credit Options: Quickly review balance and borrow or transfer credits
 - Offers & Products: Easily check on offers and confirm products activations
 - Available 24/7: Open whenever a client needs
77. ajala is looking to have both the social and business impacts.
78. For the social perspectives, ajala aims to drive:
- financial inclusion
 - mobile inclusion and
 - information access inclusion
79. For the business impact, ajala is looking to help African businesses no matter where they are located:
- African businesses are helped to increase their economic and operational efficiency
 - Africa businesses use voice automation as a means to create new revenue opportunities and to improve their customer services.
80. Technology transfer and IP development are at the core of our business and foundational to our growth strategy
81. **Dr. Abake Adenle** concluded that the evolution and cohesion of regulatory policy across Africa are vital to the growth and impact of technology companies on the continent

By Neema Nyerere Drago, MD, NND Consulting, IP & Brands “Authenticity 4 Growth”, Butiama, Tanzania / Geneva

Presentation: “Intellectual Property and Development, role of the Diaspora in Developing Intellectual Property in Africa”

82. Why is IP relevant for Africa?
- Africa is the world’s youngest nations with opportunities for growth

- It has the world's fastest growing economies at an average annual rate of 6% (pre-pandemic) and positive growth of almost 2% (forecasted) - sustainability
- About the fountain of youth, 41% of Africa's population are under 15 and only 3% of the population are 65+ - available workforce
- Africa has a large Diaspora community (Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, Ghana...)
- Endowment of natural resources (oil, gas, bauxite, helium, diamond, gold, uranium, timber, vast land for agriculture and forestry, agricultural and forestry products that are unique to Africa, surface and underground water sources, marine resources for the Blue Economy, etc.)
- Innovation and creativity are an integral part of Africans' way of life⁴
- Africa abounds in talented youth (mechanics, small-scale miners, hairstylists, fashion designers, beauty & cosmetics, arts & designs, textile & designs, food processing)
- There is a high penetration of communication technologies among the population especially our youth, and a high-speed data transmission through fibre optic.
- There are also an increased higher learning, research, R&D institutions and incubators and industrial parks in Africa
- A vast informal sector was build in Africa but that sector is well organized

83. How can IP contribute to growth?

- Must come out of the closet of legalism and legal conundrums and enter into the marketplace
- Three-pronged approach working in unison
 - Government: Policy Coordination - Cross sectorial
 - Private Sector: Practical Application: at all levels of the economy (Agriculture, Trade, Commerce, Industry, Health, Services, Knowledge Transfer, Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions, Arts And Entertainment, etc.)
 - Academia, R&D, Research Institutions: Access To Information For Innovation & Education

84. What Should Be The Role of the Diaspora?

- A facilitator for tech transfer:
 - New business models e.g. Ecommerce, franchising and mentorship to enhance African businesses' competitiveness
 - Identify and facilitate access to appropriate technologies for SMEs in Africa
 - FDIs through networking
- Targeted and strategic remittances to generate success stories
 - Venture Capital Funds to Encourage Innovation & Creativity
 - Crowd funding

⁴ William Kankwamba, *the boy who harnessed the wind*

- Good Ambassadors for “Made in Africa” innovation & creativity
 - Connectors to New Markets for African branded products that tell the African Story

III. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Question 1 (addressed to Dr. Abake Adenle):

Technology transfer and IP development are the core of the ajala business and a condition for its growth strategies. The pillar of its activities is protection of IP. How would this be implemented?

- Some areas of IP where ajala is operating are uncertain, ajala aims to be proactive on how its IP is treated.
- There are no many data ajala can rely on, it has to built its own data.
- ajala constructs its agreements. The relationship with its enterprise partners is defined. A section about protection and ownership of IP Rights that involve some of their interactions is always included.
- The aspects of the ajala IP are shared with every party. That's important to built economic and social values for the business.

Question 2 (addressed to Mrs. Neema Nyerere Drago):

The huge informal sector in Africa market was mentioned. Do you perceive this informality of our market as a challenge to innovation and IPR policy implementation?

- It depends on the environment that available in order to determine what kind of role the informal sector could play.
- Street vendors sell many counterfeit goods but a lot of innovation takes place within the informal sector.
- There has to be an understanding that informal sectors are important agents of change if they are organised in a manner which talented youth are identified and supported especially during this pandemic.
- Informality of our market is not a challenge to innovation and IPR policy implementation but a highly important resource that can contribute to change.

Question 3 (addressed to Mrs. Dr. Abake Adenle):

IPR governance is a good policy but there is a problem of implementation. Do you think Africa lacks talent capacity; human capital to implement this policy or Africa lacks the ability to select the talent capacity we have in Africa?

- There are no lack of talents and knowledge.

- There are numerous case studies around the world that can be cited as an incredible knowledge.

Answers and notes by Dr. iur. Ituku Elangi Botoy

- **Should Africa look at one market, one currency? Is that possible?** Before focusing on the regional, we need to strengthen the national capacity.
- **It is important to note** that WIPO is the World Intellectual Property Organisation and not the World Intellectual Property Protection Organisation.
- The World Trade Organisation has put the emphasis on the legal side of Intellectual Property. However, WIPO has been promoting Intellectual Property with 2 functions: Educational function and Protection function
- We have to go behind the legal scope, because this is what has reduced WIPO to the protector of legal rights.

Question 4 (addressed to Dr. Abake Adenle):

What's needed to bring the parties together to make a difference?

- Africans have to be bold enough. They need to move away from how they have been dealing with Intellectual Property until now.
- They need to involve the parties and tell success stories where Governments have worked together with the private sectors and where Intellectual Property has made meaningful change in lives of the African People.

A message from Dr. Abake Adenle to the African Youth: Africa should continue to do the work of improving economy and societies. They should offer the youth the opportunity to express the creativity and knowledge they already possess.

A message from Neema to the African Diaspora: Africa has opportunities in every field for the African Diaspora to come back to Africa. They need to organise their projects and ideas on the potential for investments before returning to Africa. She invites many Diaspora to give Africa a chance.

Question 5 (addressed to Dr. Fikremarkos Merso):

During this period of Covid-19, many innovations have been seen among the African youth which aims to assist in addressing the challenges of the pandemic, for instance in the producing of masks and washing hands facilities. Do you see this period of pandemic being a point of revolution and innovation among the African youth?

- Patents are now restricting access to vaccines especially in Africa and the developing countries. Not only the innovation aspect of the Intellectual

property rights has to be looked at but the access aspect as well (access to technology and medicine for instance).

- Access to technology is also very important by encouraging innovation.
- Africa has not exploited its potential in terms of Intellectual Property. Africa needs to improve its potential by requiring the participation of many stakeholders and non-governmental organisations.

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

A. **By Mr. Alexis Nshimiyimana Neuberg**, President, Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform, ADEPT, Brussels, Belgium

- The quality of the interventions was excellent.
- Keep in mind what has been learned:
- **Dr. iur. Ituku Elangi Botoy** presented the real the size of Africa.
- **Dr. Fikremarkos Merso** explained what the representation of the African Union in the continent and the common market to which Africa aspires.
- Today has its *raison d'être* so we can understand the merits of this issue.
- There were about 50 (fifty) participants in this conference, congratulations to the organisers of this conference and especially, the Moderator of this conference, **Mr. Dozie Celeste UGOCHUKWU**
- **Ms. Neema Nyerere Drago** was keen to see the implementation of Intellectual Property. She noted the importance of promoting this implementation at the level of the Diaspora.
- She insisted on the Africans' ability to develop their own resources and to live on their resources.
- The African Intellectual Property is a resource but Africa is not capable of living from this resource.
- The circulation of the African intellectual resources should be added to the inspiration of creating a common market. Each country valuing the resources of its children.
- Africa should value the intellectual properties of their own children, regardless of the countries in which they reside.

- With the emergence of development, we should consider the free circulation of goods. It is essential that African countries have the capacity to communicate the information.
- Innovation and technology are drivers of development
- **Alexis Nshimiyimana Neuberg** appeals to all Africans, in particular to organizations and initiatives to find a way to implement Intellectual Property in Africa and in the Diaspora.

B. The moderator and coordinator of this event, Mr Dozie Céleste UGOCHUKWU thanks all the speakers and the participants and closes the session by insisting on the importance to exchange ideas to build the ecosystem that will help us create the Africa we desire.



African Diaspora Council of Switzerland
PRESENTS
PRÉSENTE

AFRICA DAY JOURNÉE D'AFRIQUE 2021

ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE AICFTA IMPLEMENTATION & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **FRIDAY 21.05.21 3:00PM GENEVA**

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ALEXIS NEUBERG
PRESIDENT, ADEPT

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**LANGUAGES / LANGUES
ENGLISH / FRANCAIS**

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<p style="text-align: center;">AFRICAN DAY 2021</p> <p>ACFTA Implementation: Leveraging Intellectual Property for Deeper Economic Integration in Africa</p> <p>Friday, 21st May 2021, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Geneva time, Zoom webinar</p> <p>DRAFT PROGRAM</p>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">   </div> <p><i>African Diaspora Council of Switzerland</i></p>		
3:00-3:10pm	Welcome Remark	<p>Dozie Celeste Ugochukwu Pat Santschi AFMD / African Diaspora Council of Switzerland, Host</p>
3:10-3:25pm	Opening Remark	<p>Representative of AfCFTA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana</p> 
3:25-3:55pm	Keynote Presentation AfCFTA IPR Protocol: Background, Rationale, Objectives and possible approaches	<p>Dr. Fikremarkos Merso Senior Expert on IPR African Union, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia</p> 
3:55-4:20pm	The Necessity to create IP Innovation Ecosystems for the Real Development of Africa and her Diaspora	<p>Dr. iur. Ituku Elangi Botoy Industrial Property Information Officer, Technology and Innovation Support Division, IP and Innovation Ecosystems, World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO, Geneva</p> 
4:20-4:40pm	Role of the Diaspora in Technology Transfer and IP development in Africa: Interview with Diaspora entrepreneurs	<p>- Dr. Abake Adenle, CEO & Founder, AJA.LA Studios, A London-based AI startup working on speech and NLU applications for under- resourced languages. London, UK</p>  <p>- Neema Nyerere Drago MD, NND Consulting IP & Brands "Authenticity 4 Growth", Butiama, Tanzania / Geneva</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Anchor</p> <p>- Neo Theodore Tlhaselo Founding Director, Conversation with Africa, CWA Gaborone, Botswana</p> 
	Input & Contributions, Q & R	Participants
5:05pm	Closing Remark	<p>- Alexis Nshimiyimana Neuberg President, Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform, ADEPT Brussels, Belgium</p> 

In collaboration with the organizations:



AFRICA-EUROPE
DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM



Creating One African Market

