

Centro de Estudos sobre o Direito da Integração Regional da SADC

**Centre of Studies on Regional Integration and Southern African Development
Community Law**

Centre d'Etudes sur le Droit de l'Intégration Régionale de la SADC

CEDIR - UEM

Current Challenges in SADC Regional Integration: What contribution from universities and research institutions ?



**A Presentation on Regional Integration
Embassy of Norway in Mozambique
Maputo, 20 October 2012**

Presentation Outline



- **Introduction: Key facts about RI in Africa and in SADC**
- **Current challenges and issues**
- **Why should academics get involved ?**
- **CEDIR's Regional Academic Network**
- **Mainstreaming RI and Harmonisation of Laws**

Introduction: Key facts on RI in Africa and SADC

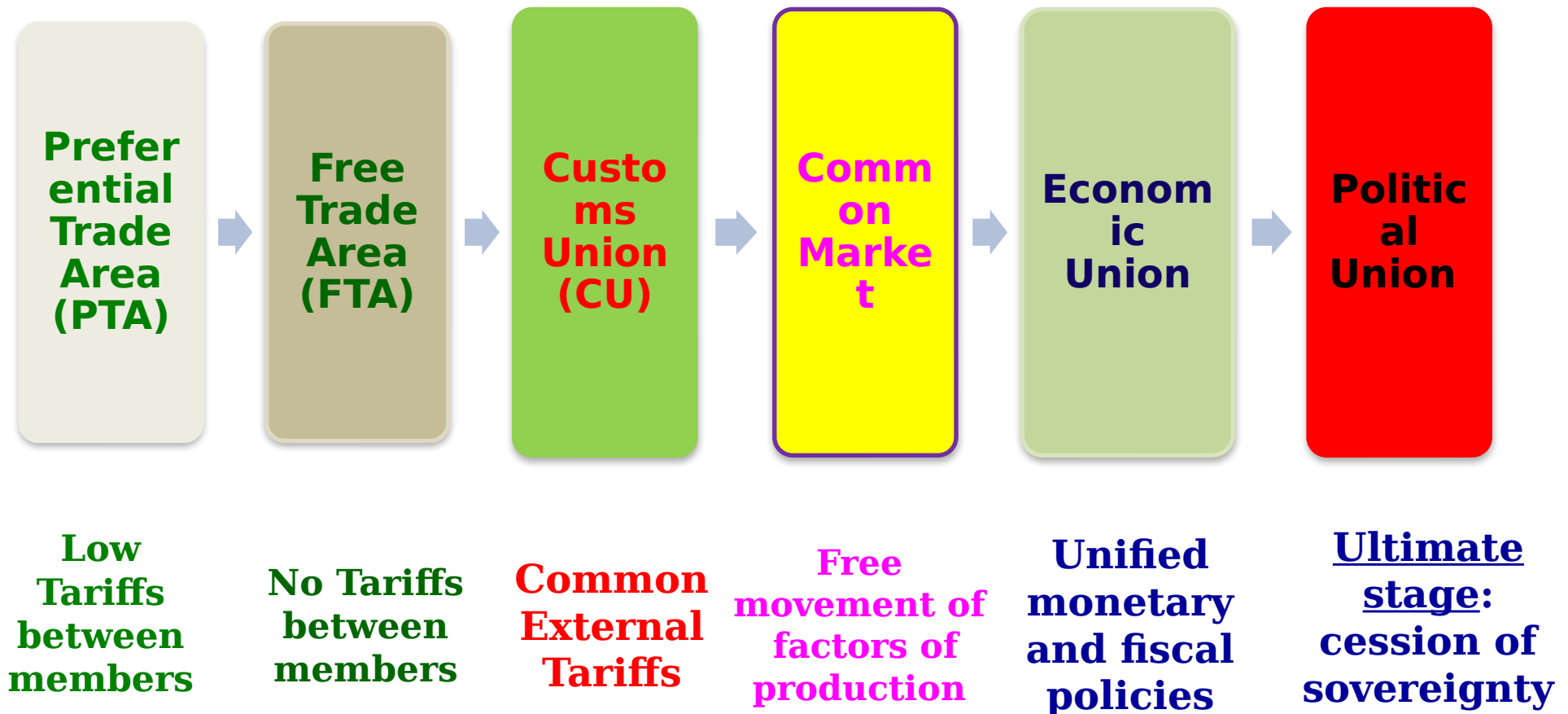
The African RI Roadmap



The African Economic Community AEC (Abuja Treaty- 1991) adopted a six stages roadmap:

- Regional Economic blocks (RECs) – **1999**
- Strengthening **intra REC integration** and intro REC harmonisation – **2007**
- Establish a continent-wide **Customs Union** and **FTA** – **2019**
- African Common Market - **2023**
- African Economic and Monetary Union with single currency , plus the Pan African Parliament – **2028**
- Transitional Period for continental integration - **2034**

Traditional RI Model



SADC -RI Roadmap



SADC -RI Roadmap was defined by the
RISDP (2003)



SADC Legal instruments



- Treaty (signed in Windhoek on 17 August 1999 and amended in Blantyre on 14 August 2001),
- Protocols: (*a total of 26*)
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)
- Charters,
- Principles and Guidelines (*democratic elections*)
- Declarations, Regulations and Guidelines,

Key facts: Historical legacy



- **Balkanisation of the African continent: 55 countries, fragmented and fragile economies (focus on fighting poverty rather than production).**
- **Permanent situation of insecurity and conflicts: DR Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Guiné Bissau, Sudan, etc.**
- **High dependence on agriculture for economic development and employment**
- **Lack of adequate infrastructure: high costs of**

Key facts: Positive aspects



- **African Union recognised eight RECs as pillars of the AEC: CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS/CEEAC (CEMAC), ECOWAS (UEMOA/WAMZ), IGAD, SADC (SACU), AMU/UMA.**
- **Tripartite FTA signed by COMESA, ESA and SADC: 26 countries representing half of the continent with a population of more 580 millions and a combined GDP of 700 Billions USD.**
- **Emerging economies: 7 out of 10 world's fastest growing economies are in Africa, the prospects of discoveries of extensive**

Current Challenges

Weak and ambitious RI agenda



African RECs are characterised by :

- **Multiple and overlapping memberships (*spaghetti*)**
- **Diverging roadmaps to integration and**
- **Unequal levels of economic development,**
- **Lack of commitment for implementation of protocols (*no enforcement mechanisms*)**
- **Lack of harmonisation of policies: different institutional and legal systems,**
- **Lack of regional drivers and Insufficient coordination at continental level (AUC).**
- **The issue of state sovereignty .**

SADC low inclusiveness



SADC R.I. process characteries by :

- **Top down approach (opposed to bottom-up)**
- **Politically-led process: reserved for government officials and diplomats,**
- **Missing links: limited involvement of national stakeholders (national parliaments, judiciary, adacemics, civil society, private sector)**
- **Lack of ownership among the citizens,**
- **Lack of accountability to the people**

External challenges



Regional Integration policies in Africa are negatively affected by :

- The globalisation process and its impacts,**
- Global financial crisis: limited funding and FDI**
- Lack of progress in WTO - DDA negotiations**
- Risk of negative impact of EU -**

Why should academics get involved ?



The growing importance of

- **Regional Integration** has gained preeminence in the economic development discourse and strategies for Africa;
- **RI is strategic for African Economic Recovery;**
- **Intra-REC trade has increased, investments and infrastructure development on rise.**
- **The need to enhance knowledge**

The role of academic institutions



- **Need to recognise the role of universities and HE institutions as catalysers of regional development through education and research;**
- **Unprecedented discoveries and latest developments in technology and knowledge management can bring positive change;**

Opportunity to link knowledge and Policy



- **Universities should to become key players in policy making by creating and disseminating knowledge through accurate and scientifically credible evidence (*as a tool for development*);**
- **Academics should promote debates / dialogue and create a better environment for a knowledge society in Africa,**
- **The academic community should use its critical mass within the region and**

Conclusion



- **Regional Integration has become too complex and too important to be ignored by scientists,**
- **Academic institutions can use knowledge as a catalyst for faster development in Africa,**
- **Globalisation and emerging issues need innovative solutions based on accurate research and taking advantages of new discoveries in technology,**

References



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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