



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
Policy Research on International  
Services and Manufacturing  
(PRISM)



## Workshop Invitation

# The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): The gains, the challenges and the rationale for the agreement

**Date: 14 October 2019, 10 – noon**

**Venue:** Seminar room, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, School of Economics building, middle campus, University of Cape Town,

**Presenters:**

- Professor Jeffrey Bergstrand, University of Notre Dame
- Associate Professor Ada Order, Director of the Centre for Comparative Law in Africa, UCT
- Professor Faizel Ismail, Director Designate of the Mandela School Public Governance, UCT

Much excitement has followed the formal commencement in July 2019 of the operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The AfCFTA aims to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, leading ultimately towards the establishment of a Customs Union.

The expectations are enormous. The AfCFTA will bring together countries covering a population of more than a billion and combined GDP of over 3 Trillion US\$. Intra-African trade flows are expected to rise significantly, with large welfare gains to consumers.

The aim of this workshop is to enable academics, researchers and scholars to engage critically on the formation and implementation of the AfCFTA. We will discuss several questions including: Is there an economic and political rationale for the formation of the AfCFTA? What gains can be expected, and will all countries benefit equally? What challenges lie ahead and how should policy makers respond?

We invite academics, researchers and students with an interest in the African Continental Free Trade Area to attend.

A light lunch for participants will follow the workshop.