

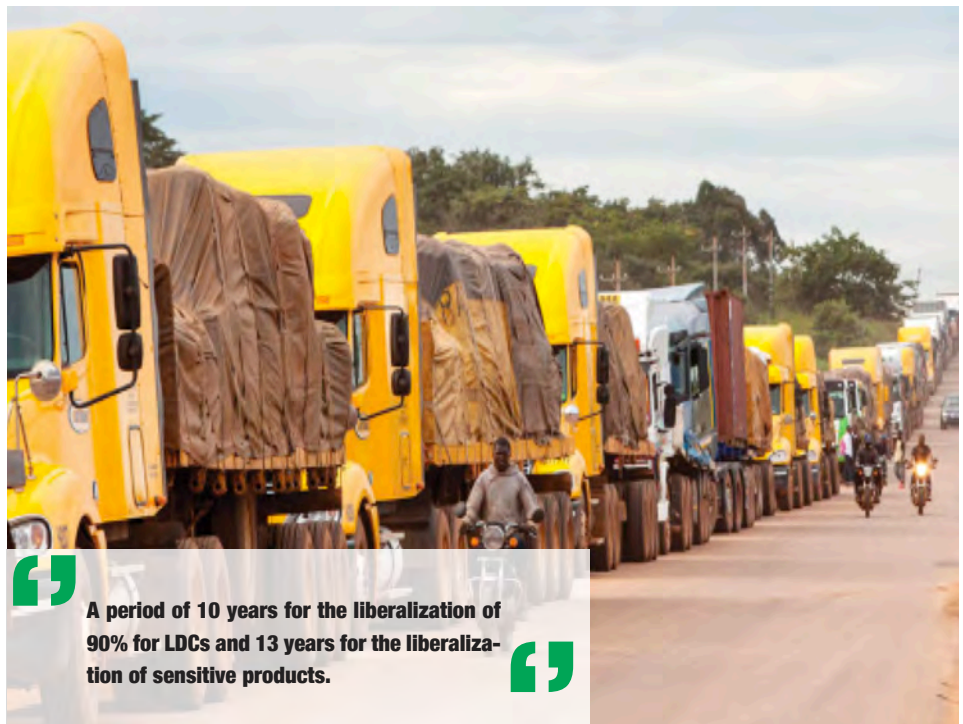
Implementation of the FTAA: The process is ongoing

The African Continental Free Trade Area, a vast initiative of the African continent, is following the course of its implementation. It aims to contribute to Africa's structural transformation target by stimulating intra-African trade by 50% by 2022, compared to 16% currently. In this article, the aim is to take stock of the negotiations and to identify the decisions expected from the African Heads of State for a good operationalization of the agreement.

In January 2021, the various countries involved in the FTAA had agreed to the effective start of trade under the agreement. This occurred while certain points of the negotiations were still pending and phases two and three were being pooled in their negotiations.

As a reminder, it is expected that the ambition level of tariff liberalization will be 90%, the remaining 10% of tariff lines will be distributed as follows: 7% for sensitive products and 3% for products on the exclusion list (provided that the latter does not exceed 10% of the value of intra-African imports). A 10-year period is also granted for the liberalisation of the 90% for LDCs and 13 years for the liberalisation of sensitive products. As regards negotiations on services, a hybrid approach combining the establishment of schedules of commitments and regulatory cooperation was adopted. The five priority sectors selected for this purpose are: business services, communication services, financial services, tourism and travel services and transport services.

To date, 41 countries including three (3) customs unions (including ECOWAS) have submitted their initial tariff offers. It is also noted that 33 initial offers on trade in services, including that of ECOWAS, have been communicated. As regards rules of origin, those currently agreed cover 86% of the total number of HS tariff



A period of 10 years for the liberalization of 90% for LDCs and 13 years for the liberalization of sensitive products.



subheadings and 92% on average of intra-African trade for the period 2017-2019.

The Council of Ministers decided to establish the committees on the issues of phases II and III of the FTAA negotiations. Pilot work on the instruments of the operational phase of the FTAA also includes the establishment of an African Trade Observatory (ATO) and the mechanism for the identification and removal of non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

In order to achieve an effective implementation of the agreement, a number of steps are expected from the Heads of State. These include:

- Conclude outstanding issues relating to rules of origin, tariff offers and specific commitments on trade in services;
- Conclude negotiations on second and third phase issues in December 2021
- Continue to establish the support bodies for the implementation of the FTAA:

recruitment and transfers within the FTAA Secretariat;

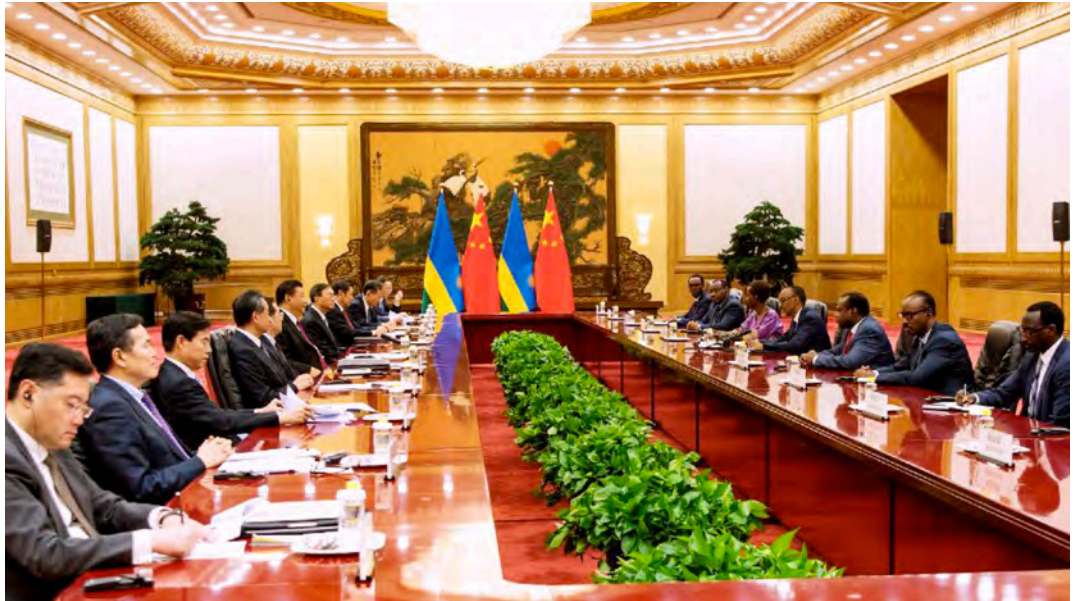
■ Operationalize the instruments for the implementation of e-trading: Mansa project and digital payment and settlement platform, African Trade Observatory (ATO), NTB mechanism, Subscribe to DeepL Pro to edit this document. Visit www.DeepL.com/profor more information.

These measures should enable the African continent to fully embark on intra-African trade in order to achieve the full potential of the FTAA for a prosperous Africa. Meanwhile, the FTAA Secretariat is being set up and its Secretary General, Wamkele Meme, is being deployed across the continent to ensure that the conditions for a successful take-off of the operational phase are met. ▶

Text: ENDA CACID



Meeting between the Chinese and Rwandan delegations of the FCSA in 2018.
(Photo: Office of President of Rwanda).



FOCAC 2021, Senegal in the spotlight

Senegal will host the Eighth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in November 2021. This forum, which is an important event in the diplomatic agenda of the African countries and China, has a special character in that the preceding FOCAC ended with strong commitments. It also operates in a context of profound economic, social and health upheavals caused by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A On the occasion of the installation of the FOCAC national committee, the Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs declared that “the Dakar conference will open up new perspectives”. Specifically, it will be a matter of keeping intact the importance of the contribution of China, which has been, for the last two decades, the first country to provide financing and development in Africa. This is in areas such as infrastructure, trade, agriculture, energy, health, industry, information and communication technologies, peace and security, education, among others.

For his part, Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, said the upcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Dakar would provide new opportunities to help Africa defeat COVID-19 and strengthen its public health governance capacity. This is especially so since China has begun providing COVID-19 vaccines to 35 Afri-

can countries and the African Union Commission, has provided nearly 120 batches of emergency supplies to Africa, and has sent teams of medical experts to 15 African countries to help them fight the pandemic.

This FOCAC will make it possible to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made at the last forums, will help to put in place new approaches to cooperation that can support policies to revive sectors affected by the crisis and will take into account the continent's aspirations contained in Agenda 2063.

This is all the more so as it comes in the context of the implementation of the AfCFTA, whose ultimate objective is to promote the development of intra-African trade by reducing the continent's dependence on its partners. This will require a structural transformation of Africa to stimulate intra-African trade by bringing it up to 50% by 2022, whereas it is currently around 16%.

The exponential growth of trade between Africa and China is the main indicator of

the importance of these two partners to each other. Sino-African trade has reached more than \$208 billion, more than 20 times its level in 2000. In addition, China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 11 consecutive years, contributing more than 20% to the continent's economic growth¹.

Understanding the importance of the upcoming forum, non-state actors including ENDA CACID, with the support of OSIWA, are in the process of gathering around a broad and dynamic framework to make the voice of civil society heard.

As a reminder, the FOCAC, created at the initiative of China in 2002, is a forum for exchanges and discussions that brings together China, the African Union and 53 African countries. It meets every three years, alternately in China or in one of the African member countries. Its objective is to strengthen cooperation between Beijing and its African partners through the conclusion of mutual aid, diplomatic and commercial agreements. ▶

Text: ENDA CACID

¹ Interview with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Senegal given to RDV, Sénéweb and CCTV during the 20th anniversary of the Cooperation Forum. Subscribe to DeepL Pro to edit this document. Visit www.DeepL.com/profor more information.

ECOWAS Mines and Oil Forum (ECOMOF): A Platform for the Promotion of the Extractive Sector in West Africa



Offer Niger the opportunity to promote its full potential in this area as well as new investment opportunities which make the country one of the most attractive markets in the mining and oil sectors of the sub-region.

After Accra in 2015 and Abidjan in 2018, the Nigerian capital will host the 3rd edition of the ECOWAS Mines and Oil Forum (ECOMOF 2021) from 1 to 3 December. Placed this year under the theme of the integration of the mining and oil industries in the development of regional value chains, the event which will bring together the main decision makers of the public and private sectors of the industry of the two areas of West Africa as well as international investors in the field, also provides an opportunity for Niger to promote all its potential in the field as well as the new investment opportunities that make the country one of the most attractive markets in the mining and oil sectors of the sub-region. It is with a view to promoting the development of the mining and petroleum potential that the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government have instituted ECOMOF whose aim is to bring together on

a single platform all the stakeholders in the mining and petroleum sectors of ECOWAS Member States and also from other continents for an inclusive and participatory dialogue on how to enhance their development towards the welfare of the community.

It should be recalled that ECOMOF is an initiative of the ECOWAS Commission which, on October 8, 2010, recommended during the meeting of Ministers responsible for the development of mineral resources in Monrovia, Liberia, the holding of a Regional Mining and Petroleum Forum within the framework of activities to promote and develop the mining and petroleum potentials of Member States. ▶

Text: ENDA CACID



A cross-border agreement between Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau to consolidate achievements in the free movement of people and goods



UA Workshop for the Elaboration of Cross-Border Sustainable Development Pacts, with the theme as a backdrop “What is the commitment of the actors to guarantee the free movement of people and goods in the ECOWAS countries, in particular between Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau?” held on 1st and 2nd October 2021 in Ziguinchor (Border between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau). The meeting is at the initiative of Enda CACID. The objective of the workshop was to seal a cross-border agreement on the engagement of actors in the integration of the three countries (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Gambia) respect for the protocols and rules governing the free movement of persons and goods

in this sub-space. The workshop was attended by some 30 people, including transporters, traders, local elected officials, civil society actors, the media, representatives of the defence and security forces, among others, from Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.

After reviewing the issues and challenges relating to the mobility of people and goods in this subarea (Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau), the various actors committed themselves to consolidating the achievements in a pact called "Cross-border agreement for integration and sustainable development between Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau". The content of this pact is presented in the box below:

We, ECOWAS citizens and integration actors, representatives of socio-professional organisations of transporters, traders, including women traders, civil society associations and cross-border community organisations, local elected officials as well as public agents, notably the police, customs, gendarmerie and water and forestry forces of Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau;

Gathered in Ziguinchor, Senegal, from 01 to 02 October 2021 as part of a multi-stakeholder consultation process led by Enda CACID in three stages;

CONSIDERING the ECOWAS Founding Treaty, the revised ECOWAS Treaty and the various protocols, regulations, directives, etc. voluntarily adopted and signed by the ECOWAS Heads of State, enshrining (i) the citizenship of nationals of ECOWAS Member States, (ii) the free movement of persons, goods and services, (iii) the right of establishment and residence, (iv) the right to health, education, food, freedom of expression, democracy, justice etc;

CONSIDERING the ECOWAS Vision 2020, which aimed at consecrating the transition from ECOWAS of States to ECOWAS of Peoples, as well as the Vision 2050 developed to strengthen regional integration and lead economic, political and social transformations in West Africa;

CONSIDERING that the free movement of persons, in accordance with established Community rules, and the facilitation of trade are a powerful factor in achieving the sustainable development objectives of the entire community;

REGRETTING the still weak results of integration, which are manifested by the numerous difficulties experienced by citizens when crossing borders and corridors and the lack of infrastructure, including between Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau; *Subscribe to DeepL Pro to edit this document. Visit www.DeepL.com/profor for more information;*

NOTING the unwavering commitment of ECOWAS Citizens to the strengthening of regional integration as a means of accelerating the process of inclusive regional development and mitigating external threats and challenges to the countries of the Community, particularly Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau;

Solemnly seal this cross-border agreement for the strengthening of regional integration, the free movement of people and goods and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives between the three countries. Through this agreement, we commit ourselves to:

CONCERNING the Defence and Security Forces;

- 1.** Encourage collaboration between the defence and security forces of the three countries in order to share information, experiences and good practices that promote the free movement of people and goods;
- 2.** Give priority to dialogue with users and citizens of the community during control and surveillance operations which are necessary to ensure the security of goods and persons, especially in an unstable regional context;



3. Denounce and repress harassment and all actions contrary to the rules coming from indelicate agents and which would have the effect of negatively impacting on the rights of the citizens of the community to circulate without hindrance;

CONCERNING traders' and transporters' organisations and associations;

4. To train and inform traders and transporters who cross borders about the legal obligations related to the movement of goods and people;

5. Respect the rules related to the travel and transport of goods and people and have the required documents;

6. Promote dialogue and consultation in interactions with public officials;

CONCERNING civil society organisations (women's associations, youth associations, crossborder organisations, etc.);

7. Simplify ECOWAS texts and make them accessible to users and public officials, particularly those relating to travel documents, goods clearance procedures, road transit, ECOWAS insurance, etc.;

8. Produce the necessary information for travellers and disseminate it widely through information leaflets, signs, radio broadcasts and any necessary visual support, etc.;

9. Establish assistance mechanisms at the borders to accompany users and strengthen existing tools such as the toll-free number set up by Enda CACID at the ECOWAS Citizens' House;

10. Advocacy at local, national and ECOWAS level for the application of the texts governing the free movement of goods and people;

11. Encourage and promote local and cross-border initiatives to bring people together and strengthen integration from below;

12. Facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations between public officials, civil society, the private sector, local elected officials and women's and youth traders' associations, and organize these consultations alternately in the three countries;

13. Advocate at the level of national authorities and ECOWAS for the equipping and modernization of border posts by building the necessary infrastructure and equipment (water, electricity, telephone, internet, and means of travel to carry out their work properly, etc.) and improve their working conditions.

14. Establish a mechanism to monitor actions and initiatives taken to promote good neighbourliness between the three countries and evaluate them regularly to measure progress, failures and challenges. The public actors, civil society, the private sector and the citizens of Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau, signatories of this Pact, will henceforth, together, take an active part in the life of the Community and will ensure the follow-up of its implementation. ▶

Text: ENDA CACID



Women in cross-border trade

On 23 and 24 August 2021, the ECOWAS Commission organised a regional workshop in Ouagadougou to validate its study on cross-border traders, entitled “Diagnostic study on the movement of small-scale cross-border traders in ECOWAS”. In addition to the participation of States, the meeting recorded the participation of resource organizations such as ENDA CACID, Borderless Alliance, Migra-consult and AFAO. The objective of the workshop was to validate the study of the ECOWAS Commission on the movement of cross-border traders in West Africa.



In West Africa, according to the World Bank, 40% of women are involved in cross-border trade; 70 to 80% of these women are involved in small-scale cross-border trade and are also faced with difficulties related to customs procedures. Thus, with a view to simplifying these procedures, ECOWAS, with the support of GIZ, conducted a study to better identify the concerns and needs of these women border traders. It is in this context that it organized a validation workshop of this study on 23 and 24 August 2021 in Ouagadougou. The objectives of this meeting are, among others, to discuss the results of the study, to put in place a mechanism of customs procedures and simplified payment specifically for small businesses of cross-border women entrepreneurs, to examine the feasibility of the proposed projects. Coming to represent the President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency Jean Claude Kassi BROU, the Director of the Customs and Taxation Union of the ECOWAS Commission, Sal ifou Tiemtoré, recalled that the holding of this workshop is a recommendation of the first meeting on capacity building of women which took place in Abuja on 29 and 30 November 2019. He further hoped that the meeting would lead to the establishment of a

realistic action plan that would facilitate the movement of goods from women’s cross-border trade across borders in the ECOWAS space.

The results of the diagnostic study on the cross-border movement of women small-scale traders revealed some findings, namely:

- In West Africa, small traders travel up to 400 km to sell their goods in neighbouring countries
- Taxes and delays increase the cost of products by about 219%, in other words the price of a soap can more than double when it is transported from a port in Cote d’Ivoire to a market in Ouagadougou
- More than 90% of West African traders are unfamiliar with trade regulations and most of them are subject to cumbersome procedures that lengthen customs clearance times, increase costs and encourage abusive practices.
- Almost all women traders have limited access to formal financial services
- Women are concerned about their safety and dissatisfied with the infrastructure at markets and borders.

During the debates, the participants mentioned the structural transformation of the economies of cross-border areas driven by women. Making a connection with the

continental Subscribe to DeepL Pro to edit this document. Visit www.DeepL.com/profor more information. free trade area, participants noted that the ongoing ECOWAS initiative will undoubtedly pave the way for a harmonized simplification of customs procedures which will eventually boost the volume of trade and consequently the removal of barriers to the free movement of people and goods.

In view of the needs identified, the study made recommendations to be operationalized by ECOWAS in an action plan. The main recommendations are based on the following points:

- Structure women traders through formal associations;
- Facilitating customs procedures for small-scale cross-border traders;
- Establish a reception and information service for users at the borders and promote market infrastructures.

As a reminder, the Diagnostic Study on the movement of small-scale cross-border traders in ECOWAS focused on three corridors, namely Abidjan-Lagos; Dakar-Bamako and ConakryBamako ▶

Text: ENDA CACID



Guided visit to the border between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau

An observation and awareness caravan was organized by the actors Senegalese, Gambian and Guinea-Bissau actors on the border between Senegal and Guinea.

Members of the defence and security forces, civil society, the private sector, women's and youth movements, etc. went to Mpack (Senegal) and then to Diegui (Guinea Bissau) to visit the equipment and facilities at the border. The visit also served to renew contacts between the administrative agents of the two countries.

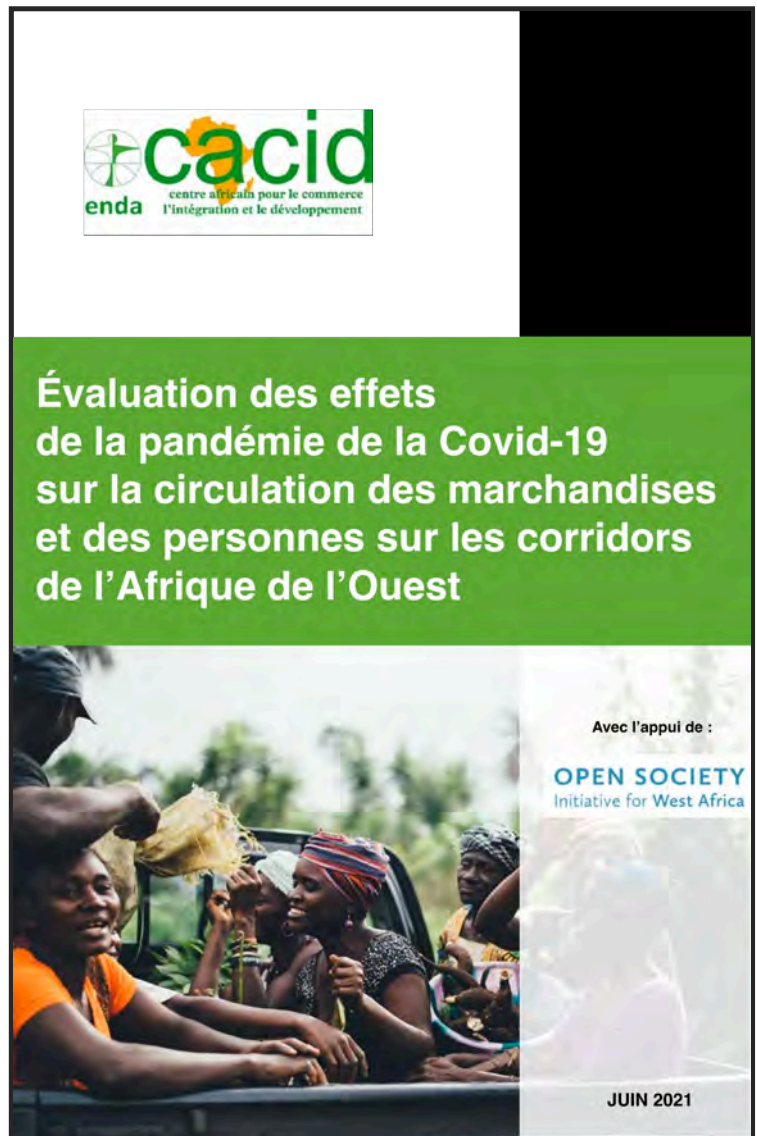
The participants noted the rather difficult working conditions in which the border agents live. These conditions mainly concern the lack of equipment and infrastructure, including water, electricity and telephone, internet, among others.

In terms of relations with users, the migration police note the permanent transit of undocumented travellers to whom they categorically refuse to cross the border.

One of the main recommendations of the visit was to strengthen the capacity of the defence and security forces to understand the Community texts governing the free movement of persons and goods and to make a strong plea to the authorities to improve their working environment.

Furthermore, cooperation between the defence and security forces on both sides is well maintained and should be strengthened by CACID initiatives. ▶

Text: ENDA CACID





Mahamadou Issoufou, the champion of the ZLECAF celebrated by Africa in Accra.

Zlecaf and African Union unveil statue in honour of Mahamadou Issoufou

The former Nigerian President, Issoufou Mahamadou, was honoured on July 16 with a statue of himself at the Zlecaf headquarters in Accra. This distinction is awarded to the former Head of State for his determination to make the African Continental

Free Trade Area an effective reality as of January 1, 2022, despite the difficulties caused by the coronavirus health crisis

Speaking on the occasion, Wamkele Mene, Executive Secretary of Zlecaf, was full of praise: "His Excellency Issoufou

Mahamadou has gone to great lengths to lead and oversee the establishment and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area," he said, adding that the statue was a lasting commemoration of his pivotal role, "both for the present and future generations of Africans.

In his speech, the former president dedicated the award to the people of Niger and all generations of pan-Africanists, before recalling the objectives of the Free Trade Area which is to end the balkanization of the continent, increase inter-African trade and its economic potential. He then called on the continent's decision-makers to work for the rapid implementation of reforms to accelerate intra-African trade and boost economic growth. ▶

Text: ENDA CACID

Regional agenda



■ **25-26-27 November 2021 (Dakar, Senegal):** Regional Training Workshop on Advocacy for Trade Facilitation in ECOWAS.

■ **28 - 30 November 2021 (Dakar, Senegal):** Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

■ **30 November - 3 December 2021 (Geneva, Switzerland):** 12th WTO Ministerial.

■ **12 December 2021:** Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.

■ **From January 2022:** Senegal takes over the presidency of the African Union (AU).

African Center for Trade, Integration and Development (ENDA CACID)

Dakar, 73, Rue Carnot - BP : 6879 (Dakar-Etoile) - Phone: +221 33 821 70 37
Email: info@endacacid.org - Website: www.endacacid.org

Publishing director: **Dr Cheikh Tidiane DIEYE**
Project Manager: **Ndèye NIANG**
Coordinator : **Souleymane BARRO**
Design: **Safari Graphic & Printing**

With support from:

