

# African Continental Free Trade Agreement

Opportunities for Science, Technology and Innovation

Keynote Address by:

**Prof Achille Mbembe**  
Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research

25 May 2021 || 09:00 - 12:00

Register in advance for this webinar [here](#)



## AFRICA DAY

25.5.2021



## PROGRAMME

Facilitator: Prof Cheryl Hendricks  
Executive Head, AISA/ HSRC

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Welcome Address</b>	<b>Prof Heidi van Rooyen</b> Acting DCEO, HSRC
		<b>Ms Mmampei Chaba</b> Chief Director: Multilateral Cooperation and Africa, DSI
		<b>Prof Garth Stevens,</b> Dean Faculty of Humanities Wits University
09:15 – 09:45	<b>Key Note Address</b> Africa's Potential Futures	<b>Prof Achille Mbembe</b> Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research
09:45 - 10:45	<b>Roundtable Discussion</b> <b>Facilitator: Dr Mclean Sibanda, Executive: Investments and Concessions</b>	
	Opportunities for Africa's economic recovery and developments through the AfCFTA	<b>Mr Thabo Chauke</b> Director: AU-NEPAD Trade Policy, Negotiations and Cooperation Department of Trade and Industry
	AfCFTA, Industrialisation and Manufacturing: Opportunities within the STI landscape	<b>Angel González Sanz</b> Chief: Science Technology and ICT Branch UNCTAD
	AfCFTA and 4IR Innovations and Technologies: Current Challenges and Future Opportunities	<b>Mr Ntsibane Ntlatlapa</b> Head: C4IR South Africa Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
	Africa's Green Energy Transition and the Af-CFTA	<b>Dr Cosmas Chiteme</b> Hydrogen and Energy, Department of Science and Innovation
	AfCFTA and the Green Economy	<b>Dr Vuyo Mjimba,</b> Africa Institute of South Africa & Human Science Research Council
10:45 - 11:15	<b>Q &amp; A (with participants)</b>	
11:15 - 12:00	Policy maker responses	<b>H.E. Bhuti Manamela</b> Deputy Minister of Higher Education Science and Innovation
		<b>Mr Hambani Masheleni</b> Senior Policy Officer Commission on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
		<b>Ms Jetane Charsley (TBC)</b> Acting Head: National Intellectual Property Management Office
12:00	<b>Summary and Vote of Thanks</b>	<b>Dr Thokozani Simelane</b> AISA/HSRC

GROUP PHOTO IN AFRICAN REGALIA

Each year on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May AISA/HSRC, DSI and its partners celebrate Africa Day by highlighting the importance of African Unity and by discussing a key continental issue.

This year our focus is on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the ways in which STI's can assist in meeting its objectives.

Africa has officially launched the AfCFTA thus taking a giant step forward towards fostering regional integration in Africa.

### Topics of Discussion by Invited Speakers:

- AfCFTA and High-tech Industrialisation and Manufacturing
- 4IR Technology and the AfCFTA
- AfCFTA and Africa's Green Energy Transition