



EU-WCO RULES OF ORIGIN
AFRICA PROGRAMME
World Customs Organization

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Implementation and Application of Rules of Origin to Enhance African Trade



Disclaimer

This publication has been developed with the financial support of the European Union under the EU-WCO Rules of Origin Africa Programme, funded by the EU. Its content are the sole responsibility of the EU-WCO Rules of Origin Africa Programme and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the WCO.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Implementation and Application of Rules of Origin to Enhance African Trade



Funded by
the European Union



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AFRICA PROGRAMME
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**The EU-WCO Rules of Origin
Africa Programme aims
to facilitate and increase
intra-African trade, trade
between Africa and Europe
and between Africa and
the rest of the world.**

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List of Acronyms

AU	African Union
CA	Customs administration
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
HS	Harmonized System
OGA	Other Government Agencies

REC	Regional Economic Community
RoO	Rules of Origin
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCROO	Sub-Committee on Rules of Origin (AfCFTA body)
TFTA	COMESA-SADC-EAC Tripartite Free Trade Area
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WCO	World Customs Organization

1.

Executive Summary

This action, funded by the European Union under the PANAFRICA Programme, contributes to the EU's support initiatives for African partners in implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Programme, implemented by the World Customs Organization (WCO), aims to facilitate and increase intra-African trade, trade between Africa and Europe, and trade between Africa and the rest of the world.

The AfCFTA is a landmark achievement in fostering regional integration to unify the continent and further its socio-economic development. Under the AfCFTA Agreement, the rules of origin – establishing the nationality of products produced in Africa – will determine whether preferential trade liberalisation can be a game changer for Africa's industrialisation.

The Programme's main objective is to support the African continent to improve its capacity to deal with rules of origin and ultimately to support the harmonised and coordinated implementation and application of the rules of origin under Annex 2 of the AfCFTA. The outcome of the Programme is that beneficiaries at continental (AfCFTA Secretariat and African Union Commission), regional (African Regional Economic Communities (RECs)) and national level (African Customs administrations, Government Administrations and Private sector) implement and apply the rules of origin in compliance with Annex 2 of the AfCFTA and in line with international commitments and best practices.

For its third year of implementation, the Programme has surpassed its planned target of 44 activities, with 64 activities conducted in 2024, at continental, regional and national levels. This has seen the engagement of 49 countries (91% engagement rate) and 8 RECs, with targeted activities towards 16 national Customs administrations, 6 RECs and private sector representatives from all 3 WCO Africa regions, as well as dedicated support to the AfCFTA Secretariat.



The Programme is progressing efficiently and closely, cooperating with the Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate of the WCO and different partners. The third year of implementation has successfully implemented the programme, covering capacity building for the RECs, Customs administrations, and private sector, assistance for the AfCFTA Secretariat, and publication. It has been successful in terms of programme implementation, covering capacity building to the RECs, Customs administrations, and private sector, as well as assistance to the AfCFTA Secretariat and publications of key studies and manuals. The Programme will continue adopting a demand-driven and tailored approach to meet the technical support and capacity-building needs of various implementers of the AfCFTA.



Activities benefitted

52 countries
and **9** RECs



16 countries,
6 RECs and
Private Sector from 3 regions
benefited from the action
during the third year
of implementation



64
activities
out of a target
of 44 undertaken
in 2024

2.

About the Programme

Background

The EU-WCO Rules of Origin Africa Programme (hereafter “the Programme”) is a multi-stakeholder initiative funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the World Customs Organization (WCO). It aims to enhance African trade through tailor-made support for implementing rules of origin (RoO).

The expected outcome of the programme is for beneficiaries to effectively implement and apply rules of origin in compliance with Annex 2 of the AfCFTA, including:

- At the continental level, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat and African Union (AU) Commission;
- At the regional level, the African regional economic communities (RECs);
- At the national level, the African Customs administrations (CAs) and other relevant governmental administrations (OGAs); and,
- At the private sector level.

This initiative aligns with international commitments and best practices, promoting and enhancing intra-African trade and trade between Africa, Europe, and the rest of the world.

Ultimately, the Programme seeks to further the integration of African economies into regional and global value chains.

This action supports the EU’s External Investment Plan and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, which were adopted at the Lisbon Summit in 2007 and refined in subsequent summits in 2010, 2014, and 2017. It also supports the establishment of the AfCFTA, which was formally launched by the AU Assembly during its tenth extraordinary session on 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda.

A key goal of the AfCFTA is to facilitate and boost intra-African trade and trade with the rest of the world, including the EU. To do so, this initiative also contributes to implementing the World Trade Organization’s Trade Facilitation Agreement.





VISION

- Assist in the successful implementation of the AfCFTA and the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Contribute to trade facilitation and increasing intra-African trade, trade between Africa and Europe and between Africa and the rest of the world



OUTCOME

- Implementation and application of Rules of Origin in compliance with Annex 2 of the AfCFTA, and with international commitments and best practices

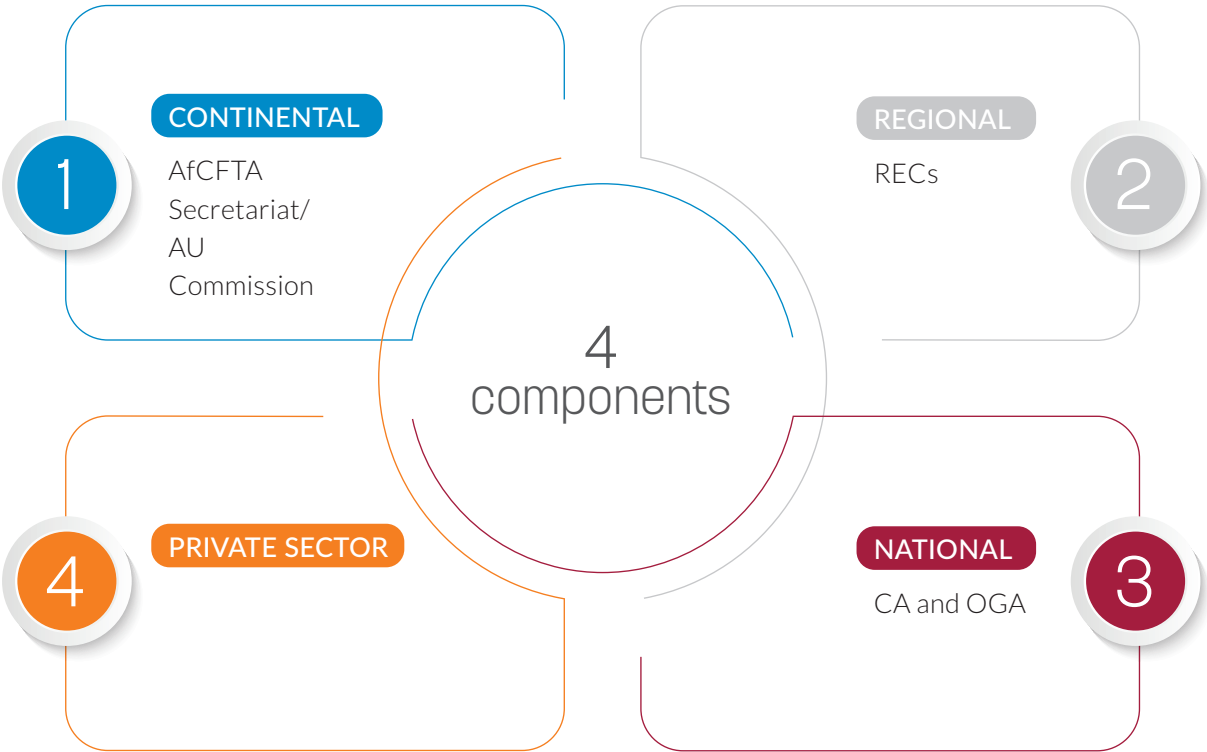


OBJECTIVE

- Supporting Africa in the coordinated and harmonised implementation and application of Rules of Origin, in particular, those of Annex 2 of the AfCFTA - Protocol on Trade in Goods

Strategic Approach

To ensure coherence and consistency with the outlined objectives, the Programme is designed around four key components:



In its third year of implementation, the Programme focused on achieving its goals related to program execution. This involved enhancing the capacity of the AfCFTA Secretariat, RECs, CAs, and the private sector and providing technical assistance to the AfCFTA Secretariat.

The Programme also prioritised the publication of essential studies and manuals. It maintained a demand-driven and tailored approach, concentrating on RECs and CAs that are committed to sustaining competencies related to origin development.

The requests for support from CAs, the private sector, and RECs in 2024 highlight the Programme's importance and relevance, underscoring its value in trade facilitation and regional and continental integration.

3.

2024 Highlights

Coverage

Over this year, the Programme has collaborated with various partners and stakeholders to carry out 64 activities, benefitting 52 out of 54 African WCO Member States. These initiatives have benefited 9 RECs, 16 national CAs, and private sector representatives from all three African regions.¹

The Programme received engagement letters from 49 countries and 8 RECs (see below).

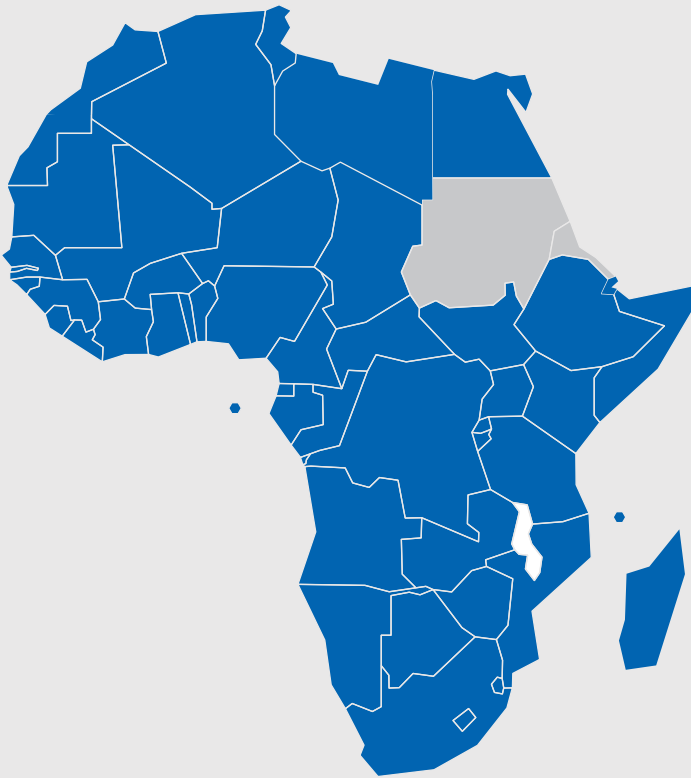
Additionally, dedicated support has been provided to the AfCFTA Secretariat.

¹ As per the WCO's regional groupings

Countries benefitting from the Programme

Algeria	Liberia
Angola	Libya
Benin	Madagascar
Botswana	Malawi
Burkina Faso	Mali
Burundi	Mauritania
Cabo Verde	Mauritius
Cameroon	Morocco
Central African Republic	Mozambique
Chad	Namibia
Comoros	Niger
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Nigeria
Congo, Republic of	Rwanda
Côte d'Ivoire	Sao Tome and Principe
Djibouti	Senegal
Egypt	Seychelles
Equatorial Guinea	Sierra Leone
Eswatini	Somalia
Ethiopia	South Africa
Gabon	South Sudan
Gambia	Tanzania
Ghana	Togo
Guinea	Tunisia
Guinea-Bissau	Uganda
Kenya	Zambia
Lesotho	Zimbabwe

52
countries



RECs engaged in the Programme

Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

East African Community (EAC)

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

Impact

At continental level

Contribution towards the Harmonized System (HS) 2022 transposition of the AfCFTA RoO	
(Description)	(Outputs)
<p>Building on work initiated in September 2022 and ongoing support throughout 2023, the Programme provided technical support to update and migrate the AfCFTA Agreement’s Annex 2’s Appendix IV on Rules of Origin from HS 2017 to HS 2022, as per the Assembly’s 2022 Decision on the AfCFTA.²</p> <p><i>“[We] thank the WCO team for your fruitful support [...] and really appreciate the adoption of the transposed version of Appendix IV to HS 2022.”</i> <i>Didier Bonyeme, Head of Rules of Origin, AfCFTA Secretariat</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information notes on the AfCFTA • Presentation of the WCO Guidelines for the transposition of preferential Rules of Origin • Information notes on the technical updates of Appendix IV
	(Outcomes)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the transposed version of Appendix IV on Rules of Origin to HS 2022

² Para. 20 of Decision on the AfCFTA (Assembly/AU/Dec. 831(XXXV)), 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, 5 - 6 February 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

At regional level

ESA region: Contribution to the modernisation and regional alignment of the COMESA Rules of Origin

(Description)

Following the publication of the report entitled: “Comprehensive Comparative Study on the Applicable Rules of Origin in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region” by the Programme, the COMESA Secretariat requested technical support to update its Rules of Origin Protocol and align it with the rules of origin under the AfCFTA and the COMESA-SADC-EAC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA).

With the support of the Programme, the COMESA Secretariat organised a workshop for its Member States to validate and adopt the proposed amendments.

“We write to express our profound gratitude to your office for providing technical assistance and availing resources to support the review of COMESA Rules of Origin [...]. Under the support from your office, the COMESA Secretariat recently held a validation workshop on the proposed amendments to the Protocol [...] on Rules of Origin [...]”
Bernard Dzawanda, Officer in Charge for the Assistance Secretary General for Programmes, COMESA Secretariat

(Outputs)

- Secondment of a RoO expert to the COMESA Secretariat for 8 months

(Outcomes)

- Technical adoption of the revised Protocol on Rules of Origin and subsidiary instruments and submission to the policy organ for endorsement.

ESA region: Contribution to the HS 2022 transposition of the TFTA RoO

(Description)

Building on the technical activities carried out in 2023 in partnership with the COMESA Secretariat, the Programme supported the alignment of rules of origin from HS 2017 to HS 2022 for the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) during a virtual workshop.

The support involved facilitating and providing technical insights to support the transposition and validation exercise by the Member States.

"[The TFTA taskforce] would like to express our appreciation to WCO for facilitating the 31st meeting of the TFTA Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin which was held virtually from 21 to 23 October 2024. Kindly note that the meeting recommended that the updated list Rules of Origin [...] be submitted to the next decision-making structure."
Balness Sumani, Senior Customs Officer, COMESA Secretariat

(Outputs)

- Workshop facilitation
- Technical inputs on the transposed RoO

(Outcomes)

- Adoption of the transposed version of Annex IV on Rules of Origin to HS 2022

Contribution to the implementation of self-certification provisions under the EAC Customs Union Protocol

(Description)

Following the consultation with the EAC in June 2023, the EAC Commission requested support from the Programme to implement and apply self-certification in the region. Self-certification of origin facilitates trade while allowing for better control of government revenue. To discuss this implementation, a workshop was held with the EAC Commission and its Member States. During the workshop, key aspects of origin certification were presented, along with discussions on best practices from other regions and sub-regions.

Self-certification has been included in the revised EAC rules of origin legislation since 2015, but Member States are yet to implement it. The workshop offered Members a chance to learn the best strategies for starting this implementation, ensuring that economic operators can fully benefit from free trade agreements.

(Outputs)

- Organisation of a regional workshop on self-certification
- Technical guidance and experience sharing based on WCO's study

(Outcomes)

- Recommendation and a roadmap for effectively implementing self-certification in EAC

Knowledge generation & dissemination

All African WCO regions: Comprehensive comparative study on Product-Specific Rules of Origin for Apparels of HS Chapters 61, 62 and 63 and Motor Vehicles of HS Headings 87.01 – 87.05

(Description)

The study uses a new method to compare drafting styles and reveals a wide diversity of drafting styles, particularly for vehicles.

It compares the drafting styles of Product-Specific Rules (PSRs) in eight free trade agreements (FTAs), namely the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the East African Community (EAC) Customs Union Protocol, the EAC-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Pan-Euro Mediterranean (PEM) Convention, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) FTA, and the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). It focuses on chapters 61-63 (garments and other made-up textile articles) and headings 8701-8705 (motorised vehicles).

(Outputs)



(Dissemination)

- In the TV show “Eye on Port”
- Guest post in CustomsClear’s newsletter

All African WCO regions: AfCFTA e-Tariff Book’s RoO module

(Description)

In response to a request from the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Programme has initiated a new module specifically for the AfCFTA e-Tariff Book, focusing on RoO. This new module aims to enhance the resources available for businesses and policymakers by providing comprehensive details about the RoO.

The inclusion of this information builds on the 2022 delivery of the AfCFTA e-Tariff Book, which complements the existing preferential tariffs. By clarifying the criteria that determine the origin of goods, the module will assist stakeholders in navigating trade agreements under the AfCFTA. This initiative not only promotes transparency but also empowers traders to fully leverage the benefits of preferential tariffs, ultimately fostering intra-African trade and economic integration.

(Outputs)



(Dissemination)

WCA region: Practical guide on ECCAS RoO

(Description)

At the request of the ECCAS Commission, the Programme drafted a technical guide on the ECCAS RoO. The guide will be published in all ECCAS languages, i.e. English, French, Spanish and Portuguese and will contribute to a better understanding and enhanced utilisation of the ECCAS Agreement.

(Outputs)

- Draft technical guidance on ECCAS RoO to be adopted by ECCAS policy organs

(Dissemination)

Capacity building activities



Number of activities

39



Number of participants

804



Gender balance

39% Female

61% Male

4.

Overview of Activities for 2024

Overall

Type	Number of activities
Capacity building	40
Knowledge generation	3
Policy support	21
Total	64



Breakdown by Component

Component 1 – Continental

Type	Country/Institution	Number of activities
Capacity building	AfCFTA Secretariat	1
	WCO	1
Knowledge generation	UNCTAD	1
	WCO	2
Policy support	AfCFTA Secretariat	8
	WCO	2
Total		15

Component 2 – Regional

Type	Country/Institution	Number of activities
Capacity building	CPLP	2
	ECCAS	1
	ESA	1
	UMA	1
	WCA	2
Policy support	AfCFTA Secretariat	1
	COMESA	2
	EAC	2
	ECOWAS	2
	IMF	1
	SADC	1
	WAEMU	1
Total		17

Component 3 – National

Type	Country	Number of activities
Capacity building	Angola	1
	Botswana	1
	Côte d'Ivoire	1
	Egypt	2
	Ethiopia	2
	Gabon	1
	Ghana	1
	Kenya	1
	Malawi	1
	Mozambique	1
	Namibia	1
	Nigeria	3
	Seychelles	1
	South Sudan	1
	Togo	1
	Zimbabwe	1
	Policy support	Namibia
Total		21

Component 4 – Private sector

Type	Component	Country/Institution	Number of activities
Capacity building	Private sector (national)	Botswana	2
		Ghana	1
		Namibia	4
		Nigeria	1
	Private sector (regional)	CBC	2
		WCO	2
Total			11

5.

Visibility

Press releases

Number of articles on the WCO website	Number of unique visitors
26	1550+

Social media

A LinkedIn campaign was initiated in April 2024, with the following estimated results:



Number of posts
67



Number of impressions
160,000+



Number of unique readers
29,000+



Number of reactions
3,700+



Number of comments
339



Number of reposts
35



Examples of successful posts

Guillaume Gérout • Vous
Trade Negotiation Expert | Research & Advisory | 400+ rules of ...
2 mois • 🌐

Entry into force of the TFTA tomorrow, 25 July 2024. What RoO will apply? ... plus

TFTA RoO factsheet • 8 pages

GENERAL INFORMATION

The COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), signed on 10 June 2016, has been ratified by eleven (11) States out of 28 negotiating States: Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

WCO
COMESA
EAC
SADC

Map of Africa showing member states (blue) and non-member states (grey).

wcooed.org
Funded by the European Union

48
2 commentaires • 14 replications

J'aime Commenter Republier Envoyer

2832 impressions Voir les statistiques

Mette Werdelin Azzam • 1er
Lead Origin Expert, RoO for Africa Programme at the WCO
6 mois • 🌐

Happening now: first day of the advanced training on #rulesoforigin for #NamRA. Participants dive deep into definitions of wholly obtained and sufficiently transformed products. The training is conducted by the World Customs Organization's #EU_WCOProgramme #RoOAfricaProgramme

Badr Mouhcine
Guillaume Gérout
Farayi Melody Banda
Caroline Bivar

Afficher la traduction

91
10 commentaires • 1 replication

J'aime Commenter Republier Envoyer

Mette Werdelin Azzam • Tier
Lead Origin Expert, RoO for Africa Programme at the WCO
2 mois • Modifié •

Day 4: Exploring the practical application of rules of origin

A field trip to a manufacturing factory and the Mwanza border station during the advanced training for **Malawi Revenue Authority** gave a deeper understanding of how rules of origin are implemented and applied in practice. The visits provided unique insights into the complexities of compliance, verification, and enforcement of rules of origin.

The factory visit to a manufacturing facility revealed firsthand how rules of origin impact production processes. Even with a good knowledge of the applicable free trade agreements, business decisions to utilize these agreements and their rules of origin still need to commercially make sense. For a landlocked LDCs as Malawi, costs linked to transport make it difficult to be competitive on the international market.


From the factory, we transitioned to the Mwanza border station where compliance with rules of origin is verified before goods enter or exit the country. The border station acts as a crucial checkpoint for assessing whether goods meet the necessary requirements set forth by trade agreements.

The officers conduct checks based on risk assessment to ensure that the declarations made by operators align with the goods and documentation provided. The implementation of technology has streamlined this process, as computerized systems quickly flag anomalies or discrepancies for further scrutiny.

The insights gathered from these visits underscore the importance of ongoing training for all stakeholders, and the need to strike a balance between trade facilitation for compliant traders and customs control.

#EUWCO RoO Africa Programme

Afficher la traduction



Vous et 43 autres personnes
8 commentaires • 2 replications

J'aime Commenter Republier Envoyer

Guillaume Gérout • Vous
Trade Negotiation Expert | Research & Advisory | 400+ rules of ...
1 mois • Modifié •

"Certificates of origin issued by customs are safer", "self-certification encourages fraud", "with an origin declaration, anyone can certify anything" ... plus



avec Mette Werdelin Azzam et 7 autres per...

48
3 commentaires • 5 replications

J'aime Commenter Republier Envoyer

1 931 impressions Voir les statistiques

6.

Vision for 2025

The Programme will continue in the upcoming year to focus on implementation by enhancing the capacity of the AfCFTA Secretariat, RECs, CAs, and the private sector. This will also include completing the knowledge generation and dissemination effort carried out in 2024.

We will continue using a demand-driven and tailored approach, focusing specifically on RECs and CAs dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of developing origin competencies. We will build on a unique and recognised comparative advantage and strong partnerships with other international cooperation partners.

As outlined in its work plan, the Programme has scheduled the following 21 activities for 2025, and is anticipating a fast-increasing volume of requests:

2 continental activities,

5 regional activities,

12 national initiatives, and

2 private sector engagements for 2025.

The Programme remains open to all CAs and RECs across Africa.

We invite you to send your inquiries
to the following email address:
EU-WCORoAfrica.Program@wcoomd.org.

7.

Annex – List of Activities

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
Capacity building	Continental	AfCFTA e-tariff book's RoO module	In September 2024, the Programme launched a new module for the AfCFTA E-Tariff Book on RoO. This module will provide additional information to the AfCFTA e-tariff book by detailing the RoO addition to the preferential tariffs.		
	Continental	WCO Trade Tools	The Programme provided access to the WCO Trade Tools on HS, Origin and Valuation to ESA ROCB, ESA RTCs and ESA member administrations		
	Regional	Study Visit to WCO Headquarters for representatives of Portuguese-speaking African countries	In March 2024, representatives from Portuguese-speaking African countries visited the WCO headquarters for the Programme, aiming to enhance skills and promote collaboration within the CPLP.	9	44%
	Regional	Comparison of the RoO provisions in Western and Central African FTAs	The program analyses similarities and differences among origin regimes in the Western, Central, and Northern African regions, as detailed in a newly published Comparative Study. Ongoing work continues.		
	Regional	Regional workshop to contribute to regional integration in Central Africa and accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement	In July 2024, the Programme and the ECCAS conducted a Douala workshop to enhance regional integration and support the AfCFTA. The event focused on aligning ECCAS RoO with the AfCFTA to simplify trade processes and outlined a roadmap for establishing the ECCAS free trade zone, intending to reduce trade barriers.	60	28%
Regional	Sub-regional training on RoO, intermediate/ advanced level, Kenya, organised in cooperation with RTC Kenya for Angola, Kenya, Mozambique and Seychelles	In August 2024, the Programme partnered with RTC Kenya to host an advanced training workshop in Mombasa for customs officials from Angola, Mozambique, Seychelles, and other AfCFTA member countries. The workshop aimed to improve understanding of RoO to facilitate the implementation of the AfCFTA and other trade agreements. Participants engaged in field visits and case studies, enhancing their capacity for efficient trade facilitation.	15	53%	

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
Regional		RoO Training Portuguese-speaking African countries	In October 2024, during the 38th meeting of CPLP Customs Directors in Luanda, the Programme organised a basic capacity-building activity for Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor-Leste. The discussions focused on advancing a CPLP-wide trade scheme and strengthening the role of Customs as both trade enablers and gatekeepers.	17	47%
Regional		Regional training on AfCFTA RoO for West and Central Africa	In November 2024, the Programme held advanced training on AfCFTA RoO in Abuja, Nigeria, for Western and Central Africa. The training aimed to improve the understanding of preferential rules among Customs administrations and negotiators to support the AfCFTA and other FTAs. Key speakers stressed the importance of capacity building and skilled human resources for effective AfCFTA implementation. Participants shared best practices and challenges related to cumulation and origin certification, using case studies from local footwear and confectionery exporters.	23	17%
Regional		Training and consultation for UMA	In November 2024, the Programme conducted basic capacity-building activities for UMA countries. Discussions focused on advancing and promoting intra-UMA integration and enhancing the region's integration into the African economy.		
National		Adhoc capacity-building for Cote d'Ivoire	In January 2024, Côte d'Ivoire Customs held a workshop in Abidjan, supported by the EU-WCO HS and RoO Africa Programmes. The workshop aimed to develop a national pool of trainers knowledgeable in the HS and RoO. This training allowed experts to enhance their skills in preparation for the upcoming implementation of a national advance rulings mechanism. The trainers gave presentations and improved their ability to educate customs staff and private stakeholders, all in line with the country's sustainable training strategy.	24	4%
National		Nigeria basic national training workshop on RoO	In January 2024, the Nigeria Customs Service organised a national training workshop to enhance understanding of preferential RoO as part of its ongoing program. The workshop focused on the determination of origin, certification processes, and the management of origin irregularities. Participants addressed the challenges of utilising FTAs and verifying origin. This initiative aims to equip customs officials with the necessary skills for effective RoO implementation, facilitate trade, and prepare for the introduction of an advanced rulings system.	28	29%

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
	National	Egypt basic (Alexandria)	In February 2024, the Programme held a national workshop for Egypt Customs in Alexandria. The event focused on enhancing knowledge of RoO, including origin determination and certification, with discussions on improving the management of FTAs and administrative cooperation.	22	23%
	National	Egypt basic (Port Said)	In February 2024, the Programme held a national workshop in Port Said highlighting challenges related to verification and the low use of FTAs. Participants exchanged experiences and emphasised the benefits of enhanced cooperation nationally. Both events are ongoing efforts to strengthen Egypt's capacity under the Programme.	28	43%
	National	Basic national training workshop on RoO for Mozambique	In February 2024, the Programme and the Mozambique Revenue Authority held a national training workshop in Maputo under the Programme. The workshop aimed to enhance Mozambique Customs' knowledge of preferential RoO, covering key topics such as origin determination, certification, and irregularities. Participants also discussed the low utilisation of FTAs and challenges with administrative cooperation while exchanging experiences and strategies for better implementation at national and regional levels.	22	18%
	National	Advanced Training Workshop on RoO for Botswana	In March 2024, the Programme conducted an advanced training workshop in Gaborone, Botswana. The workshop aimed to enhance the Botswana Unified Revenue Service's understanding of RoO and trade agreements, including the AfCFTA and SADC-EU EPA. Participants engaged in practical and theoretical exercises on origin certification and verification to ensure ongoing capacity building.	33	67%
	National	Basic national training workshop on RoO for South Sudan	In March 2024, South Sudan Customs held a national training workshop in Juba as part of the Programme. The workshop aimed to enhance South Sudan's customs officials' skills regarding preferential RoO, focusing on origin determination, certification, and managing irregularities. Participants addressed challenges such as low utilisation of FTAs and issues related to verification. This training is part of broader capacity-building efforts to improve regional trade facilitation and administration efficiency.	34	24%

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
	National	Basic national training workshop on RoO for Togo	In March 2024, the Programme and WAEMU held a workshop in Lomé, Togo, to enhance Togo Customs' understanding of preferential RoO. The focus was on improving regional trade integration and addressing issues like low Free Trade Agreement usage and administrative cooperation. Ongoing collaboration will help fill capacity gaps.	29	34%
		Kenya Customs and Stakeholders for the Implementation of AfCFTA through an Advanced RoO Workshop	In March 2024, the Programme, GIZ, and the KRA held an advanced training workshop on RoO in Machakos, Kenya, as part of the Programme. The workshop aimed to strengthen the knowledge and application of preferential RoO for KRA officials and stakeholders, which is crucial for AfCFTA implementation. Participants engaged in practical exercises, fieldwork, and discussions to enhance skills in origin certification, verification, and managing trade agreements.	26	63%
	National	Basic national training workshop on RoO for Seychelles	In April 2024, the Programme, the Regional Training Centre (RTC) Kenya, and the Seychelles Revenue Commission conducted a training workshop in Victoria, Seychelles. The focus was on enhancing the Seychelles Customs' understanding of preferential RoO. Participants examined key concepts such as origin determination, certification, and irregularities while also addressing challenges related to using and verifying FTAs. The training aimed to strengthen trade facilitation and improve revenue collection, with ongoing support planned through the Programme.	28	75%
	National	Namibia Advanced National Training Workshop on RoO	In April 2024, Namibia Customs took part in an advanced training workshop in Windhoek, supported by the Programme. The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of preferential RoO, focusing on key topics such as origin determination, certification, and verification. Participants engaged in case studies and field visits to better navigate the complexities of various FTAs applicable to Namibia. This initiative is part of ongoing capacity-building efforts to improve trade facilitation and compliance under the AfCFTA.	18	78%
	National	National training on RoO, advanced for Nigeria	In June 2024, the Programme conducted an advanced training workshop for the Nigeria Customs Service in Abuja. The workshop focused on essential concepts related to origin determination, cumulation, and certification under the AfCFTA and other FTAs. The goal was to enhance the skills of NCS officials, featuring case studies and field visits to local producers. The program supports the implementation of advanced rulings and will continue with a training-of-trainers initiative to develop expertise further.	24	38%

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
	National	National training on RoO advanced for Ethiopia	In June 2024, the Programme and the Ethiopia Customs Commission conducted an advanced training workshop in Addis Ababa. The goal was to enhance Ethiopia's understanding of RoO under the AfCFTA and other FTAs. The workshop covered essential concepts such as cumulation and origin certification and included practical field visits. This initiative aims to build local capacity and support trade facilitation. There are plans for a future training-of-trainers program to spread this expertise further.	19	47%
	National	National training on RoO for Angola	In June 2024, in collaboration with the Programme, Angola Customs held a national training workshop on RoO in Luanda. This workshop enhanced customs officials' understanding of origin determination, certification, and the management of origin irregularities. Participants also discussed challenges related to FTAs and verification processes. The goal of the training was to improve Angola's capacity for efficient trade facilitation and revenue collection.	30	40%
	National	National training on RoO, ToT for Nigeria	In July 2024, the Programme held a training-of-trainers workshop for the Nigeria Customs Service in Abuja. The workshop aimed to develop a national pool of experts skilled in the HS and preferential RoO. Participants improved their abilities in applying the HS and certifying origins, equipping them to deliver effective training. This initiative builds on previous training efforts and supports Nigeria's implementation of an advanced rulings system.	6	17%
	National	Advanced National training on RoO for Malawi	From July 29 to August 2, 2023, Malawi Customs participated in an advanced training workshop in Blantyre to enhance their understanding of RoO. This workshop under the Programme covered key concepts such as cumulation, tolerance rules, and origin certification. Participants also visited a factory and a border station to observe practical applications of these concepts. This initiative supports Malawi's trade facilitation under the AfCFTA, with plans for further capacity building through a training of trainers program.	27	48%

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
	National	National Training for Zimbabwe	In July and August 2024, Zimbabwe Customs conducted a national training workshop in Harare focused on RoO. The Programme facilitated this workshop and was organised in partnership with the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority and the Regional Training Center. The primary aim was to enhance skills and knowledge related to preferential RoO, essential for trade facilitation under agreements such as the AfCFTA. The training addressed key topics, including the determination of origin, certification processes, and challenges in management, thereby strengthening Zimbabwe's capacity for effective trade regulation.	27	56%
	National	Advanced training for Ghana	In partnership with the Ghana Revenue Authority, the Programme held an advanced training workshop on RoO in Accra, Ghana, from September 30 to October 4, 2024. The workshop aimed to improve Ghana Customs' grasp of preferential RoO, aiding the implementation of the AfCFTA. Building on previous training in 2023, this workshop covered origin determination and operational challenges and included a field visit to a local factory. Mr. Emmanuel Ohene, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, emphasized the need for ongoing training to help meet revenue goals. The Programme plans to continue assisting GRA with additional training, including training trainers to spread knowledge among Customs officials and stakeholders.	31	48%
	National	Gabon basic	In November 2024, the Programme and the Gabonese Customs held a national training workshop in Libreville. The workshop aimed to enhance Gabonese Customs' knowledge of preferential rules of origin, covering key topics such as origin determination, certification, and irregularities. Participants also discussed the low utilisation of FTAs and challenges with administrative cooperation while exchanging experiences and strategies for better implementation at national and regional levels.	35	26%
	National	Ethiopia ToT	In November 2024, the Programme held a training-of-trainers workshop for the Ethiopian Customs Commission in Addis Ababa. The workshop aimed to develop a national pool of experts skilled in the preferential RoO. Participants improved their abilities in applying the certifying origins, equipping them to deliver effective training. This initiative builds on previous training efforts and supports Ethiopia's implementation of an advanced rulings system.	41	41%

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
Private sector (regional)		SADC private sector sensitisation workshop	In May 2024, the SADC Secretariat organised a workshop in Mauritius to promote the AfCFTA. The event focused on investment, job creation, and women and youth empowerment. Key initiatives discussed included the Non-Tariff Barriers mechanism and Mauritius's implementation strategy, emphasising trade expansion and BMZ's support for infrastructure alignment with EU-Africa agreements.	42	36%
Private sector (regional)		CBC Capacity Building of the Private Sector on the Implementation of AfCFTA	In July 2024, the COMESA Business Council (CBC) organised a workshop in Tunisia to educate National Focal Points and private sector representatives from COMESA's Francophone countries about the AfCFTA). The event, supported by the EU's Technical Assistance Facility, aimed to enhance understanding of AfCFTA's operational instruments and trade opportunities. Participants from Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, and Tunisia attended. Tunisian officials expressed readiness to support private sector engagement in AfCFTA, highlighting its potential to boost trade and economic development across Africa.	32	25%
Private sector (regional)		Advanced CBC Capacity Building of the Private Sector on the Implementation of AfCFTA	In December 2024, the COMESA Business Council (CBC) will hold a follow-up workshop in Mauritius to empower the Mauritian private sector to leverage the AfCFTA effectively. Building on previous sensitisation efforts, the event will offer targeted guidance on AfCFTA's operational tools, trade opportunities, and compliance requirements. Key sessions will cover rules of origin, market access strategies, and overcoming non-tariff barriers, providing Mauritian businesses with insights to enhance intra-African trade and capitalise on AfCFTA-driven economic growth.		
Private sector (national)		National Namibia Stakeholders' Training	In March 2024, Namibian stakeholders, including importers, exporters, manufacturers, and the Ministry of Fisheries Officials and Namibia Standards Institution staff, were trained on the theory and practice of RoO.	18	78%
Private sector (national)		Walvis Bay Namibia Stakeholders' Training	In March 2024, Namibian stakeholders in Walvis Bay.		

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
	Private sector (national)	Keetmanshoop Namibia Stakeholders' Training	In March 2024, Namibian stakeholders in Keetmanshoop.		
	Private sector (national)	Katima Mulilo Namibia Stakeholders' Training	In March 2024, Namibian stakeholders in Katima Mulilo.		
	Private sector (national)	RoO in the context of beverages and the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative (Coca-Cola)	In April 2024, with support from the GIZ CESARE programme, the SADC Secretariat held a virtual workshop for Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) on leveraging the AfCFTA. The workshop covered RoO, trade documentation, and practical use of the AfCFTA e-Tariff Book, aiming to enhance CCBA's readiness for cross-border trade under the AfCFTA. Kenya Tea Development Agency shared their experiences with the Guided Trade Initiative. CCBA appreciated the workshop's role in preparing them for AfCFTA opportunities.	16	44%
	Private sector (national)	RoO in the context of foodstuff and the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative (Nestlé)	With support from the GIZ-funded CESARE programme, the SADC Secretariat held a virtual workshop on July 2, 2024, for Nestlé to enhance their understanding of the AfCFTA. The session focused on RoO, AfCFTA compliance documentation, and the e-Tariff Book. Nestlé is exploring local sourcing options within Africa and preparing to leverage the AfCFTA for market expansion. SADC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting regional businesses in utilising AfCFTA opportunities. The Programme-EU RoO Africa Programme was thanked for its technical assistance.	25	40%
	Private sector (national)	Customs Brokers Association – Ghana	In October 2024, the Programme, with support from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and the Customs Brokers Association of Ghana (CUBAG) conducted a training workshop in Accra. The goal was to improve the understanding of preferential RoO for supply chain professionals. Funded by the European Union under the Programme, the workshop aligned with the Programme's theme of enhancing collaboration to support trade and secure borders. GRA representative Mr. Fechin Akoto highlighted the importance of partnerships among brokers, freight forwarders, and Customs. Participants discussed origin determination, operational challenges, and the low use of FTAs, stressing the need for better cooperation between Customs and the private sector. The workshop proved valuable for promoting trade facilitation and efficient revenue collection, with plans for ongoing collaboration.	15	27%

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	Private sector (national)	Awareness raising for Nigeria private sector	In November 2024, the SADC Secretariat organised a workshop in Nigeria to sensitise and build the capacities of the Nigerian private sector on the role of RoO in AfCFTA implementation.		
Knowledge generation	Continental	Comparative Study of the RoO in the Textiles and Vehicles Sectors	In October 2024, the Programme published a comparative study that analysed the drafting styles of RoO in the textiles (chapters 61-63) and vehicles (headings 8701-8705) sectors across eight FTAs, including the AfCFTA and the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The study highlights significant variations in drafting, particularly in the rules for vehicles, and points out the increasing complexity brought about by updates to the HS. It recommends simplifying and modernising these rules to make them easier to apply in trade negotiations.		
	Continental	Joint ICC-WCO mapping	The Programme and ICC are collaborating to map all competent authorities for issuing of certificates of origin across Africa. The work is ongoing.		
	Continental	UNCTAD roundtable	In November 2024, the Programme provided technical support to the annual UNCTAD roundtable at the European University Institute for LDC capacity-building on rules of origin.		
Policy support	Continental	Study on the correlation between Chapter 61 and chapters that provide their inputs	The Programme, upon demand from the AfCFTA Secretariat, prepared a technical note on textiles classification for origin determination purposes		
	Continental	AfCFTA adhoc textile briefing	In May 2024, the Programme shared the initial insights from the technical note on textiles classification for origin determination purposes with the AfCFTA Secretariat and collaborated to pave the way forward regarding supporting the AfCFTA RoO negotiations	6	33%
	Continental	Participation in SCRO08	In June 2024, the Programme participated in the 8 th meeting of the SCROO to present information on textile classification for origin determination purposes and the RoO transposition methodology to HS 2022.		

Type	Component	Name	Description	Somme de Nb of participants	Moyenne de Gender balance
Continental		AfCFTA textiles consultations #1	In September 2024, the Programme participated in the consultations on textiles to present information on textile classification for origin determination purposes and support the State Parties technically		
Continental		AfCFTA textiles consultations #2	In September 2024, the Programme participated in the consultations on textiles to present information on textile classification for origin determination purposes and support the State Parties technically		
Continental		AfCFTA textiles consultations #3	In September 2024, the Programme participated in the consultations on textiles to present information on textile classification for origin determination purposes and support the State Parties technically		
Continental		Participation in SCRO09	In October 2024, the Programme participated in the 9 th meeting of the SCROO to support the revision of the proposal on textiles and the RoO transposition methodology for HS 2022.		
Continental		1 st AfCFTA eCO TWG meeting	In October 2024, the Programme participated in the 1 st eCO meeting to share best practices on e-certification		
Continental		Consultation Meeting on the Feasibility Study of the Interconnectivity Framework for the Certificates of Origin	The Informal Working Group examined current practices intending to identify a common Business Process Model for e-CO exchange. The IWG also examined and compared data elements of different certificates of origin. Subsequently, the IWG examined different aspects of an interconnectivity framework based on GNC-UB components.		
Continental		Participation of African Beneficiaries to the Programme Technology Conference and Roundtable with AfCFTA and RECs	Financial support for the participation of African countries		

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Regional		IMF workshop on implementation of AfCFTA	The IMF is holding workshops across Africa to modernize Customs procedures for the AfCFTA Agreement. Five workshops have taken place, focusing on aligning customs with AfCFTA goals. With input from the programme, key discussions included digitising customs processes and improving the management of certificates of origin. Participants showed interest in future data exchange initiatives.		
Regional		Workshop on self-certification and e-CO for ECOWAS and Members	Recent discussions among selected ECOWAS members—Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal—focused on implementing self-certification and electronic certification of origin under the new legislation, crucial for the AfCFTA Agreement and other FTAs. A roadmap was established for implementation tentatively by the end of October 2023. The Programme continued its collaboration throughout 2024 to develop "middleware" connecting national systems to the ECOWAS e-hub, integrating customs and issuing authority systems. The e-CO was launched in November 2024.		
Regional		Launch of the e-CO for ECOWAS and Members	Following the workshop mentioned above, the Programme supported the development and preparations to launch the ECOWAS e-CO. Work ongoing		
Regional		Technical support to align the COMESA Protocol on RoO with the TFTA and AfCFTA	From September 23 to 25, 2024, the COMESA Secretariat held a workshop in Zambia to review the COMESA Protocol on RoO, supported by the Programme. This event coincided with important regional developments, such as implementing the COMESA-SADC-EAC Tripartite Free Trade Area. Assistant Secretary-General Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah highlighted the role of RoO in enhancing economic integration. Mrs. Christiane Haziyo from the EU stressed the need to harmonise RoO across Eastern and Southern Africa. Findings from a 2023 study on RoO were presented to help modernise the Protocol and promote sustainable development in the region.	35	43%

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Regional		Consultation with WAEMU and members, workshop on update of approved products database and alignment of legislation to ECOWAS	In June 2024, the Programme and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) held a regional consultation and workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, as part of the Programme. The event focused on the challenges of applying RoO in the WAEMU region, modernising the WAEMU origin protocol, and transitioning originating products to HS 2022. Participants developed a roadmap for capacity building and started updating the list of originating products, aiming to align it with the AfCFTA and other regional trade agreements.	23	17%
Regional		EAC self-certification workshop	In August 2024, a workshop in Dar es Salaam, supported by the Programme and the EAC, focused on the self-certification of origin. This process, outlined in the EAC's rules from 2015, has not yet been implemented. The workshop aimed to guide EAC members in effectively executing self-certification to enhance trade facilitation. It also emphasised the importance of tools like the ICC's Genesis platform and discussed the technical support needed for successful regional integration.	15	27%
Regional		Advanced RoO training for the ESA region together with the AfCFTA Secretariat	The Programme held advanced training on AfCFTA RoO for Eastern and Southern Africa from September 2 to 6, 2024, in Mombasa, Kenya. The training included representatives from 16 countries. It aimed to enhance Customs administrations' and negotiators' understanding of preferential rules to support the AfCFTA and other FTAs. Key speakers highlighted the need for capacity building and strong human resources to advance AfCFTA's implementation. Participants shared best practices and challenges regarding cumulation and origin certification, supported by case studies from local exporters in footwear and confectionery. The EU-WCO initiative seeks to improve knowledge and skills to effectively apply AfCFTA RoO.	25	32%
Regional		COMESA Protocol on RoO Review Workshop	From September 23 to 25, 2024, the COMESA Secretariat held a workshop in Zambia to review the COMESA Protocol on RoO, supported by the Programme. This event coincided with important regional developments, such as implementing the COMESA-SADC-EAC Tripartite Free Trade Area. Assistant Secretary-General Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah highlighted the role of RoO in enhancing economic integration. Mrs. Christiane Haziyo from the EU stressed the need for harmonising RoO across Eastern and Southern Africa. Findings from a 2023 study on RoO were presented to help modernise the Protocol and promote sustainable development in the region.	35	43%

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	Regional	31 st TFTA RoO TWG meeting	Following the support provided to the COMESA and SADC Secretariats to transpose the TFTA RoO to HS 2022, the TFTA TWG adopted the transposed Annex on RoO. The Programme presented the transposed matrix and provided technical guidance on the same.	53	47%
	Regional	EAC Protocol on RoO Review Workshop	In November 2024, the EAC Secretariat held a workshop in Uganda to review the EAC Protocol on RoO, supported by the Programme. The activity seeks to exchange experiences based on the COMESA revision process and consolidate the insights gained by comparing RoO in the ESA region.	35	43%
	National	The launch of the Namibia Electronic Advance Rulings Tool	The Programme launched the Namibia Electronic Advance Rulings Tool.		

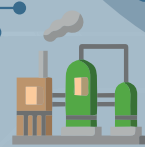


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Global Forum on Origin Interconnectivity

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EU-WCORoOAfrica.Program@wcoomd.org

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