

# African Organisation For Standardisation



AFRICAN ORGANISATION  
FOR STANDARDISATION (ARSO)

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## Is it Time for a Common African Market? Standard contribution

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Secretary General, ARSO**

26th October  
2023



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# 1. What is ARSO

## ARSO VISION

To be an excellent standardisation institution that promotes a **quality culture** in support of **trade, industrialisation and sustainable development in Africa**

## ARSO MISSION

To facilitate African **industrialization, intra-Africa and global trade** by providing harmonized African standards and conformity assessment procedures that **promote sustainable development**

### AfCFTA TBT annex 6-Article 6 : Cooperation in Standardisation

1. State Parties shall:
  - a) develop and promote the adoption and/or adaption of **international standards**;
  - b) promote the **adoption of standards developed by the ARSO and the AFSEC**;
  - c) where a relevant international standard required to facilitate trade does not exist, request the **ARSO and/or the AFSEC** to develop the required standard to facilitate trade between State Parties;

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Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia  
Office of the Chairman

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**ARSO is intergovernmental organization established in 1977 by OAU (currently AU) and UNECA**

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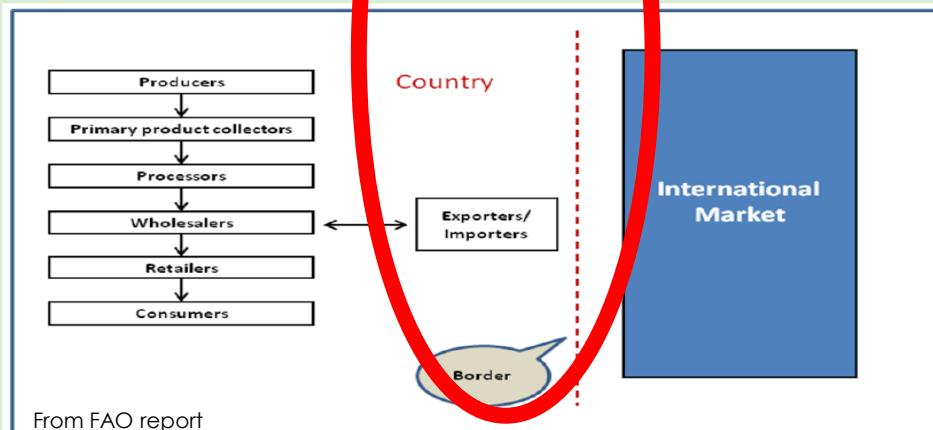
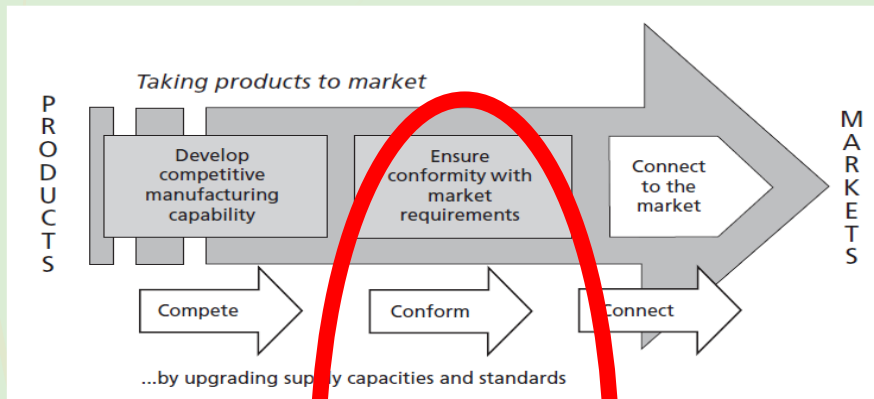
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## 2. Market access- Quality infrastructure

Standardisation- Metrology- Accreditation- Conformity assessment - Market surveillance

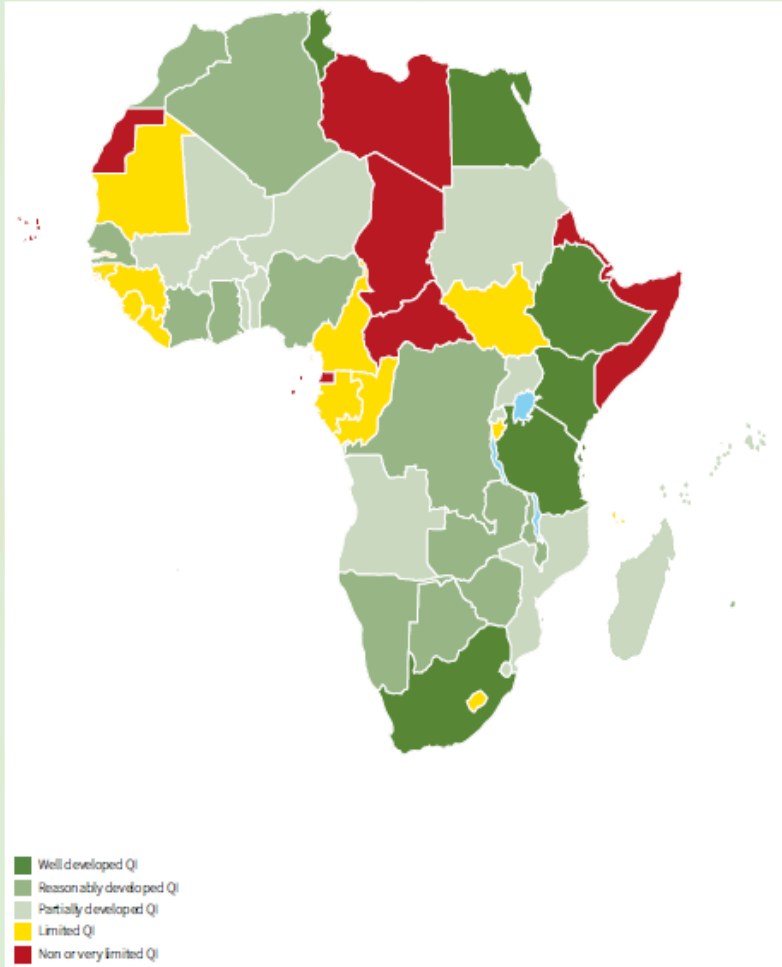


### ➤ Bottleneck- TBT and SPS:

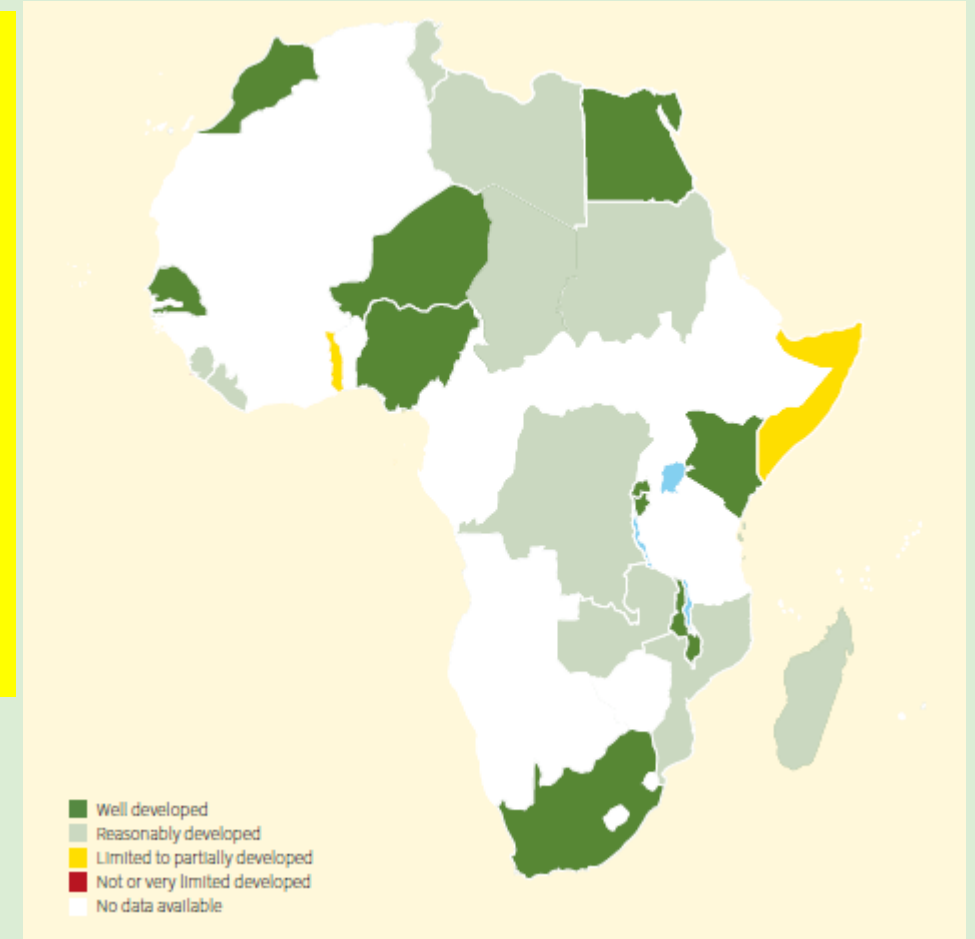
- Harmonization of standards in priority sector
- Harmonization of Technical regulations
- Recognition of conformity assessment results

# 3. Status of Quality Infrastructure (QI)

## TBT – Stocktaking 2023



## SPS – Stocktaking 2022



- TBT
- 6 MS developed QI
- **23 MS limited or little existence**
- 47 Countries that ratified AfCFTA- **19 SP do not have a developed QI**

# 4. Priority sector for harmonisation

## Priority RVCs for RECs (based on PEBs)

COMESA	EAC	ECCAS	ECOWAS	SADC	UMA
Agro-processing, including vegetables, tea, sugar	Agro-processing including vegetables, tea, cereals, beverages and spirits	Agro-processing including dairy, coffee, tea, cereals, cocoa, beverages and spirits,	Agro-processing including fruits and nuts, coffee and tea, edible oils, cereals, beverages and vinegar	Agro-processing including fruits and nuts, sugar, beverages and spirits	Fish processing Edible oils Cement
Minerals beneficiation including copper, cobalt, nickel etc.	Cement Precious stones	Mineral oils Wood and wood products	Mineral fuels Essential oils	Mineral fuels Precious stones Iron steel	Minerals beneficiation Fertilizer
Wood and wood products	Mineral oils Iron and steel	Precious stones	<b>Cotton</b>	Automobile	<b>Textiles</b>
Mineral oils	Creative economy	Iron and steel Automobile	Precious stones Ships and boats		Iron and steel Automobile
<b>Cotton and textiles</b>		Ships and boats			
Iron and steel					
Precious stones					
Creative economy					

## Priority products for standards harmonization

Portland cement; fish; milk and milk products; fruits incl. fruit juices; edible oils incl. palm oils; cereals incl. rice, wheat, maize, sorghum; automobiles; mineral water

## Most common exports

### AfCFTA: opportunity for industrial upgrading

- Some products feature in top 10 exports to Africa (& within REC) but not top 10 exports to world
- These are typically more industrialized products (e.g. cement and motor vehicles)
- Unprocessed raw materials dominate RECs exports to the rest of the world
- Most common REC exports are primary agricultural products and minerals

### Analysis of most common exports is not enough

- Overlooks the significant opportunity to tap into “under-exploited” or “untapped” opportunities to scale up intra-African trade under the AfCFTA

## Potential export basket

### Continental market: more diversified

- Number of products in PEB to Africa is much higher than the number in PEB to the World (exception of ECOWAS)
- REC comparative advantage within Africa (compared to ROW) is more diversified with greater VA & less limited to primary products
- Some products enter REC PEBs for both African & World markets – offer potential for developing competitive RVCs which are positioned to enter GVCs (e.g. leather, textiles, works of art, essential oils and agro-processing)

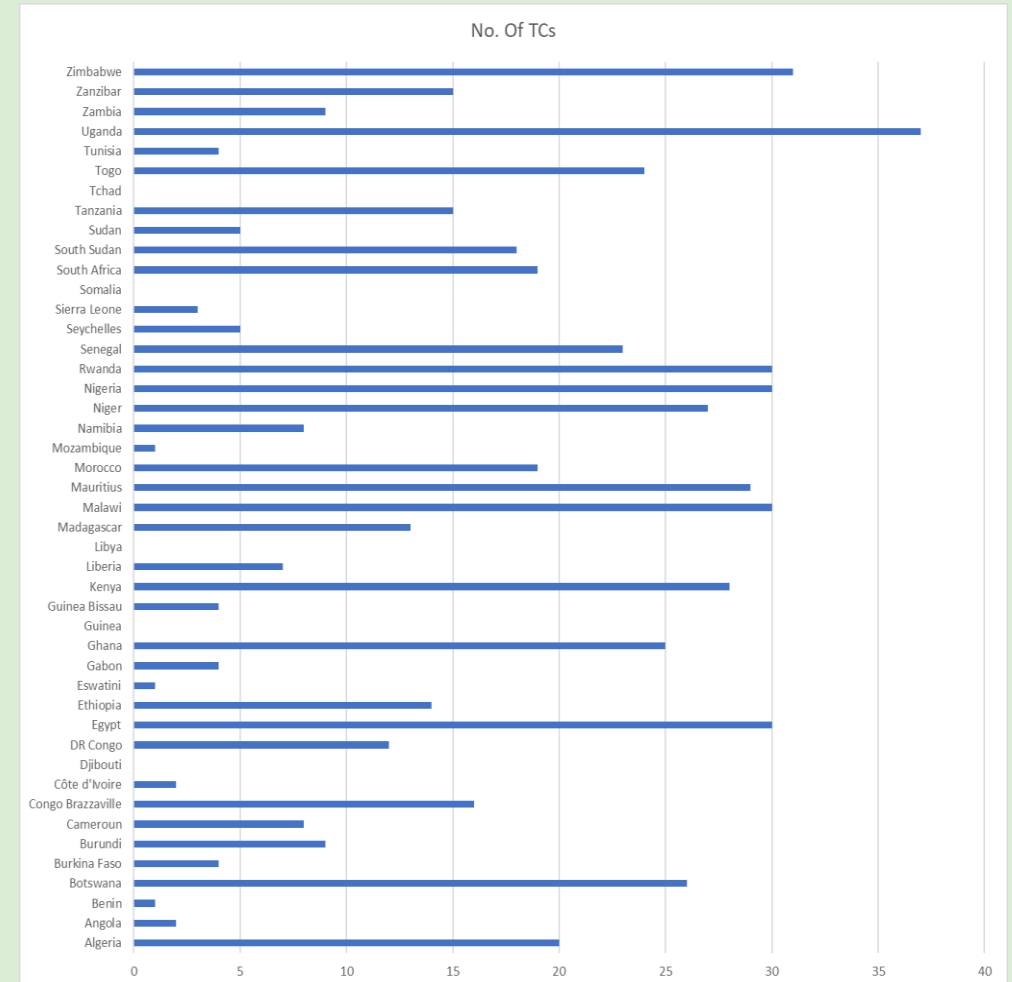
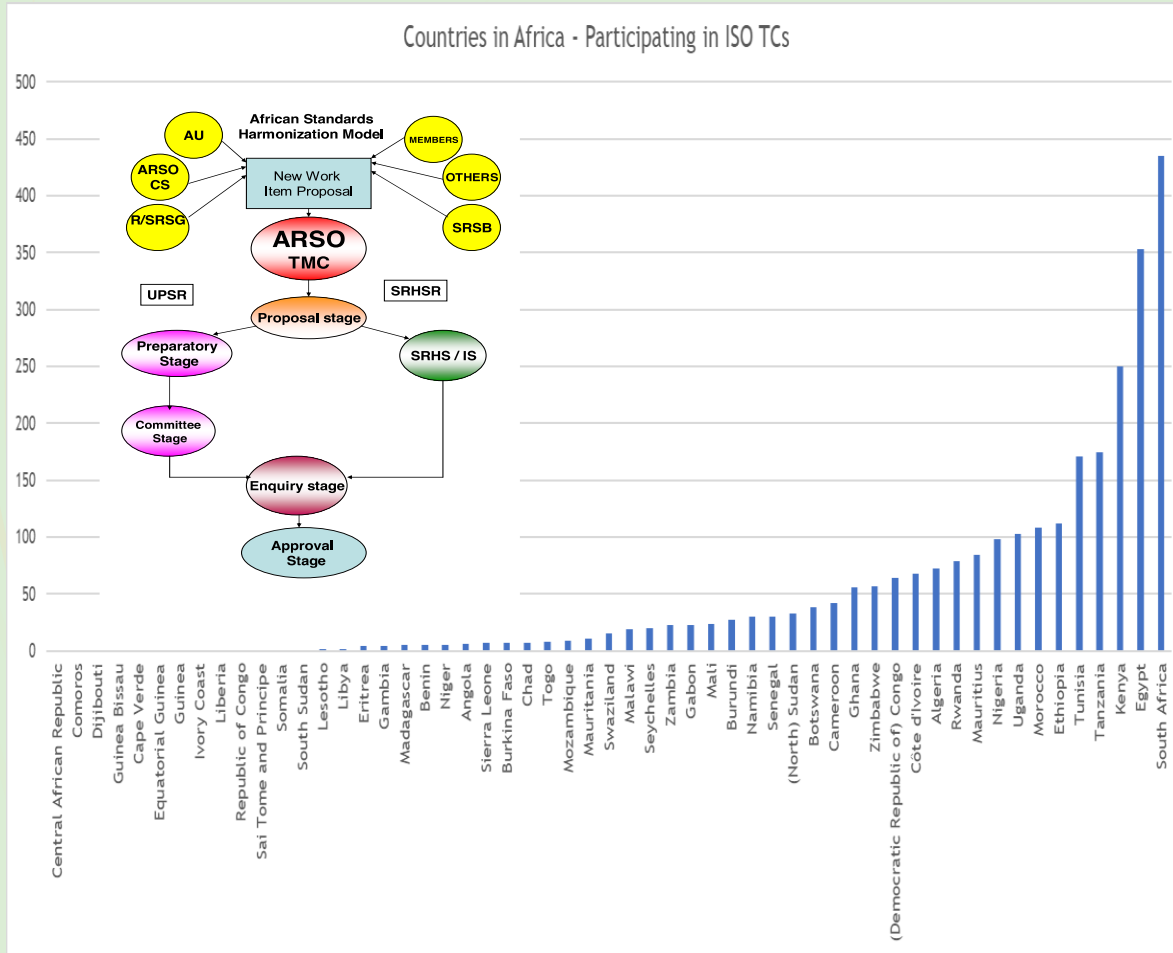
### PEB to Africa

- 4,077 products for which at least one REC has comparative advantage in vis-à-vis Africa
- Majority of products (2,086) enter PEB for only one REC - highlights varying CA across regions, & significant potential for boosting intra-African trade and between-REC RVC development

# 4.1 Harmonisation of Standards-Participation



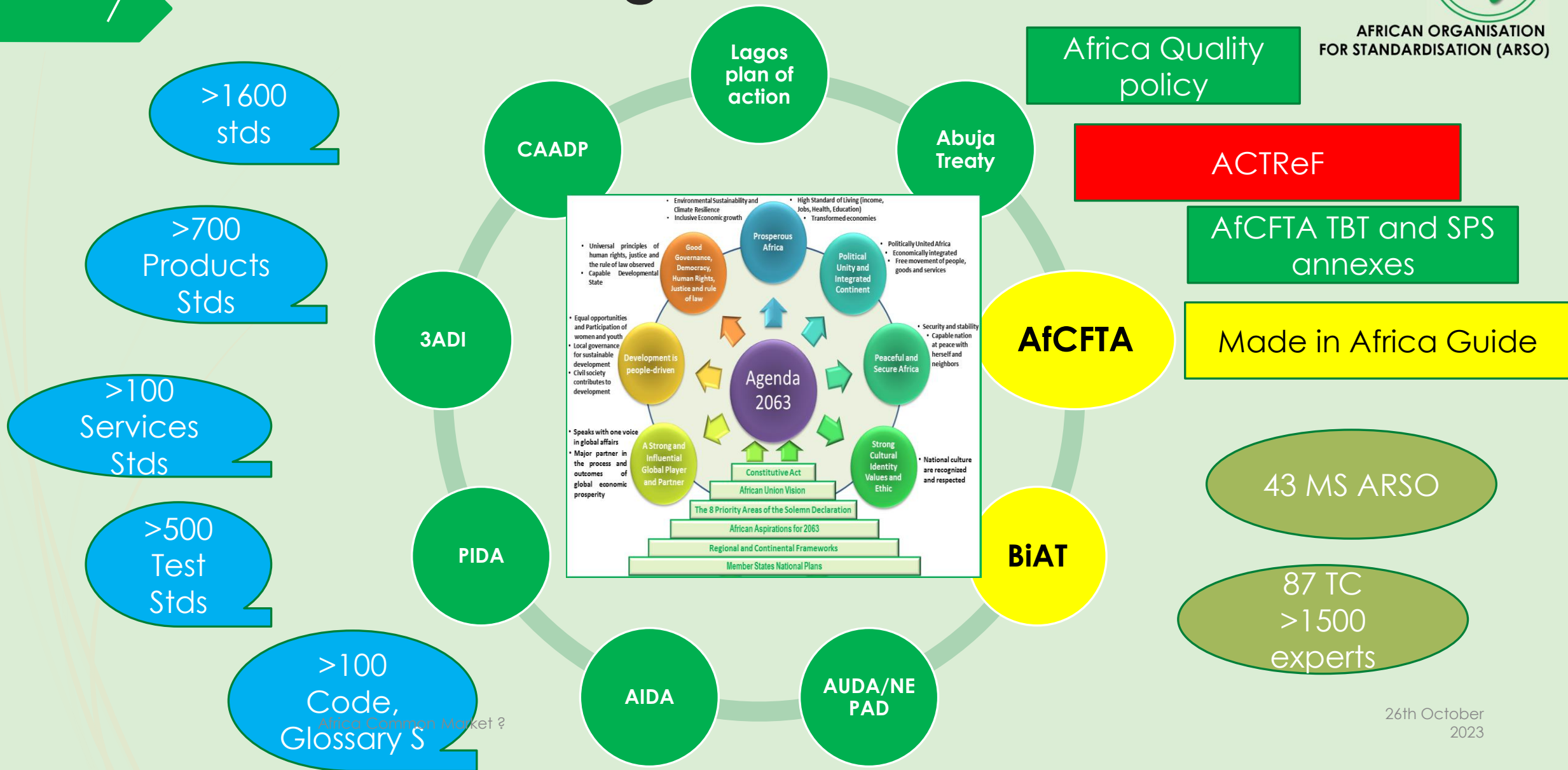
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Africa Common Market ?

# 5. Technical regulations-based on stds

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# 5.1. TR- ATWP-information sharing



**ATWP - Africa Trade Web Portal** Member Login

Home About Exports and Imports Requirements Tariffs & Quotas Trade Agreements Standards Map Statistics

### Intra-Trade in Africa



### Trade in Africa



#### Latest updates

- > World Trade Statistical Review
- > The new USA president to abolish AGOA

[More news updates...](#)

#### Currency Converter

100

From: US Dollar (\$)

To: Euro (€)

**Convert**

#### Explore areas of activity

- > Search requirements for your product to sell within African Market
- > Over 100,000 standards

**Notify me on TBT matters**

Under the SPS Agreement,

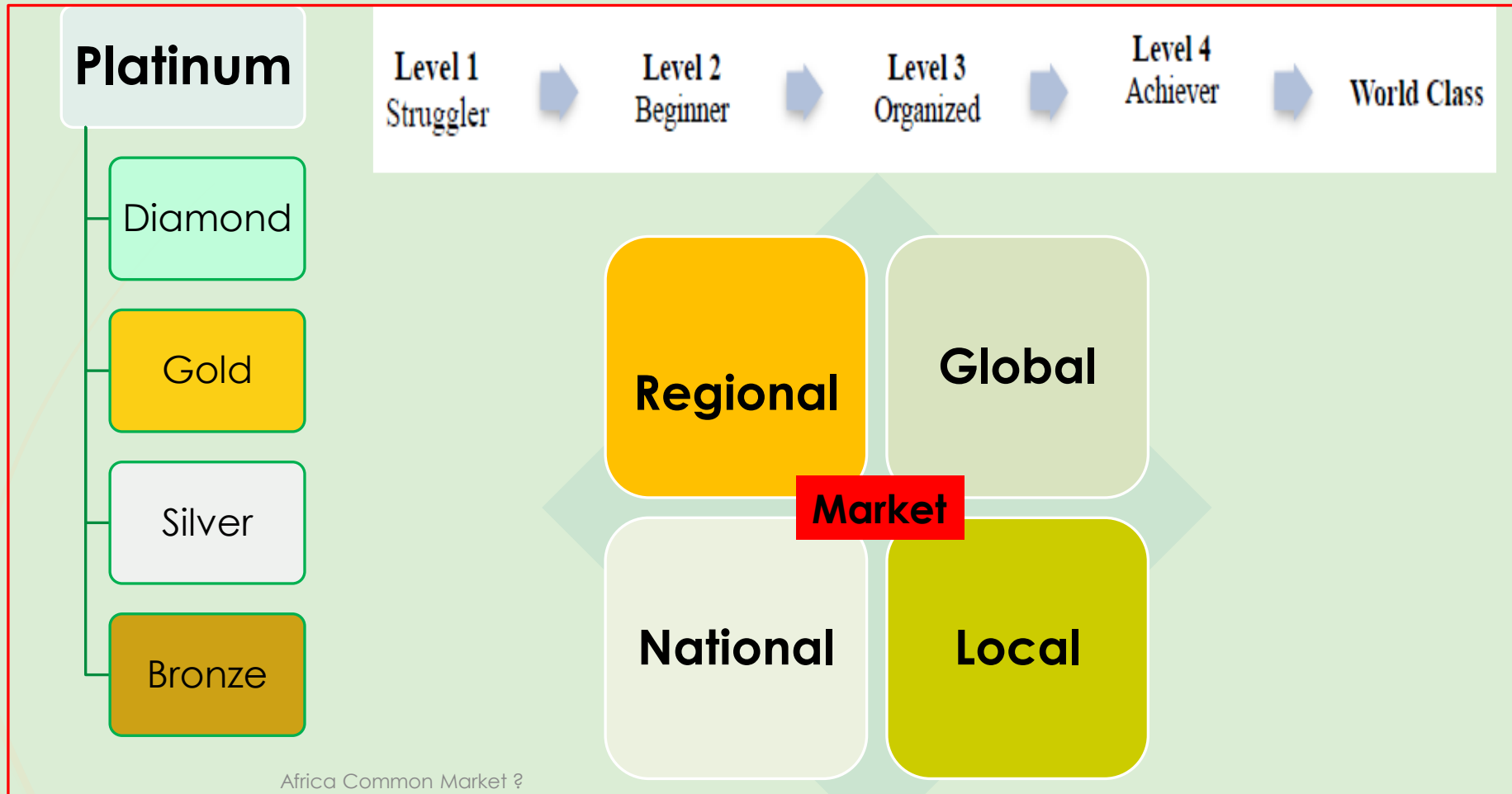
The Africa trade varies from one country to another and is dominated by diverse natural resources that the continent enjoys in abundance. Other countries represent the higher side of the spectrum whereas other have the least trade volumes and can therefore be said to be a representation of extremes.

Most African economies remain largely agrarian, dependent on agriculture and other natural resources as the major source of foreign exchange and employment. However, many African



## 6. Conformity assessment – Market target

### Maturity model –value chain



# Conclusion

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1. **Universal membership to ARSO**
2. **Adoption and implementation of standards- withdraw of conflicting standards**
3. **Conformity assessment that respond to the need of SMES growth and private sector in general**
4. **Capacity building** of QI and clear institutional framework
5. **Reducing cost of conformity assessment – One stds-one test-one certificate**
6. **Political support – Benefit of standards**



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*Asante*

*Merci beaucoup!*

*Thank you!*

*شكرا*

*Muito obrigado!*



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