



Championing those
shaping the future of
**African
prosperity**

Autumn 2023



Our mission is to champion free market policies by supporting those in Africa who are best positioned to make change.





THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN TRADE

With the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area on January 1st, 2021, African states have an opportunity to break free from the shackles of economic nationalism that have plagued swathes of the continent for centuries and trapped so many of its people in poverty. The benefits of African free trade are numerous, however, so are the challenges.

The Initiative for African Trade and Prosperity (IATP) is guided by the core belief that bottom-up free market policies are the most effective way to alleviate poverty, amplify individual liberty, and create a more peaceful future.

The project is supported by the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Vinson Centre for the Public Understanding of Economics and Entrepreneurship at the University of Buckingham. The IATP partners with, and provides financial support to, local think tanks, groups, and scholars making the case for freedom right across Africa.

Our work is only made possible with the talent and determination of our local partners, the guidance of our Advisory Council, and the backing of our donors. We extend special thanks to the Atlas Network for its seed funding in 2021 and the Rising Tide Foundation for its generous and ongoing investment in the project.

THE OPPORTUNITY

By 2035, the AfCFTA will have lifted 30 million people out of extreme poverty and 68 million from moderate poverty

Since decolonisation, economic nationalism has plagued swathes of Africa. However, on January 1st, 2021, thanks to the introduction of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), that could change. The AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade area and represents the first opportunity in Africa's history for states to pursue an intra-continental trading relationship based on free trade and continued economic liberalisation.

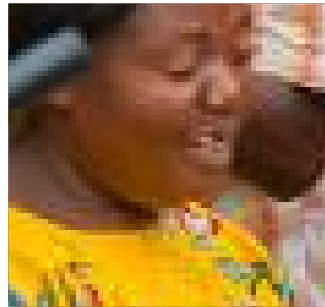
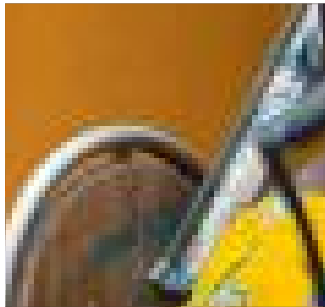
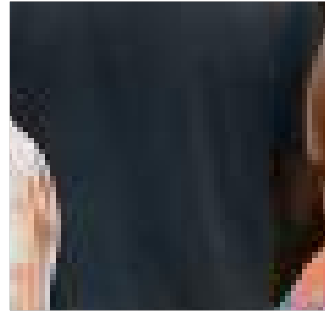
Within 13 years, the AfCFTA aims to eliminate 97% of tariffs on goods traded between member-states. The World Bank predicts that if fully implemented by 2035, the AfCFTA will lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty, 68 million from moderate poverty, boost regional income by over \$450 billion, and increase average wages for both skilled and unskilled workers by approximately 10 percent. Moreover, the AfCFTA would play a vital role in mitigating the substantial economic damage inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



***"With the AfCFTA in action,
Africa's reputation as the
'poor continent' shall be a
thing of the past."***

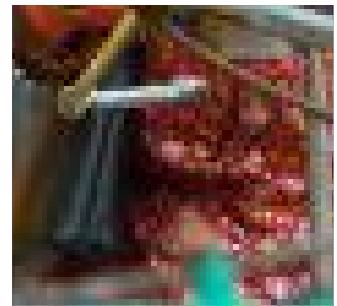
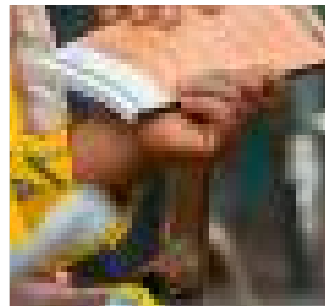
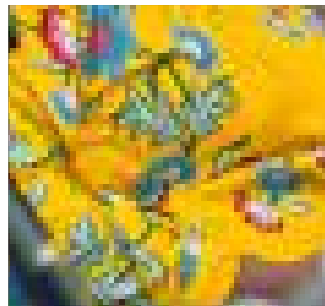
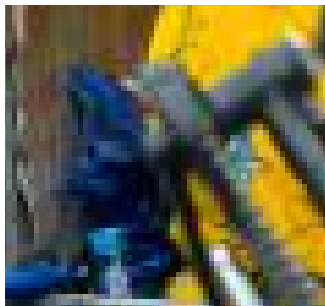
- Linda Kavuka





"The next two decades are crucial to the economic survival of the continent. The creation of the IATP comes at an important time for Africa's policy-makers."

- Ibrahim Anoba



THE CHALLENGE

Never in Africa's history has there been a more important time to make a case for free trade

The future of free trade in Africa is far from secure due to insufficient participation among African Union member states, particularly from the continent's larger economies, delays in implementation, increasing calls for economic nationalism post-Coronavirus, and the lack of support for free trade from some governments who have already ratified the agreement, the future of free trade in Africa is far from secure. Certain opponents of free trade, often represented by influential trade unions and far-left political parties, have already achieved success in promoting a protectionist narrative within their countries. These negative voices must be met with a strong, positive message explaining the enormous benefits bottom-up free trade solutions will bring to each and every community in Africa. If this challenge is not addressed, the prosperity and opportunities of a continent-wide Free Trade Area will remain elusive.

Whilst AfCFTA has put the notion of 'free trade' in the news across the continent, in the absence of a strong and coordinated voice advocating for free trade and, more importantly, without support given to those best positioned to effect change, the realisation of a continent-wide FTA could dissipate.

THE SOLUTION

Together
we will help
remove barriers
to human
flourishing in
Africa

Africa has by far the greatest number of people living in extreme poverty. The AfCFTA will not serve as a sole remedy to African poverty, but it presents a significant opportunity to enhance the wellbeing of millions of people.

More than two dozen free enterprising think tanks are currently based in Africa, along with thousands of students and scholars with an interest in free trade. Until recently, however, there was no organisation or project dedicated to making an African-wide free trade area a reality.

That is why we launched the **Initiative for Africa Trade and Prosperity (IATP)** which seeks to be a unifying voice for open and liberal trade across the continent. Through IATP we partner with local groups and think tanks in the region, offering grants, assistance, and educational resources to amplify their voices and increase their effectiveness. We also find and connect with students, teachers, writers, and thinkers to build a stronger and more unified voice that advocates for free trade. Alongside creating a connected movement, the IATP provides tangible outputs: original research and articles for publication; a virtual library of books related to trade and classical liberal thought in Africa; hosting lectures and seminars (virtual or in person), producing videos, and appearing on TV, radio, and podcasts.



"The IATP means that Africans might at last be able to enjoy free trade with those in Africa and beyond. That makes this one of the most important policy initiatives happening anywhere in the world."

- Douglas Carswell



Our Partners

To maximise impact and reach in the region, we have established formal collaborations with the Network for a Free Society and local groups across the continent. This is in line with the IATP's primary objective of establishing a large and coordinated network who are devoted to work together. Subject to funding, the IATP is looking to increase the number of partners in the region.





FREE MARKET FOUNDATION

South Africa

www.freemarketfoundation.com



Cameroon

www.nkafu.org



D.R. Congo

www.ededrcongo.org



Burundi

www.instituteforeconomicsandenterprises.org



Uganda

www.aledafrica.org



South Sudan

www.soless.org



Burundi

www.centrefordevelopmentgreatlakes.org



Ghana

www.imaniafrica.org



Freer & Prosperous Society

Tanzania

www.libertysparks.org

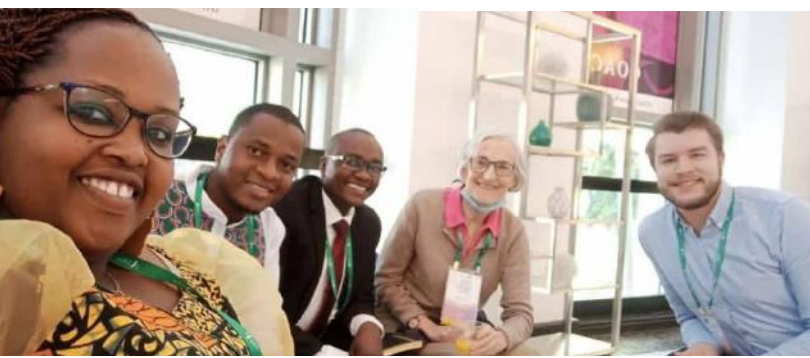


Nigeria

www.ominirainitiative.org







PARTNERING TO ENCOURAGE CHANGE

The IATP was launched in 2021, thanks to the work and effort of all those at the Institute of Economic Affairs, The Vinson Centre and The University of Buckingham. We at the IATP would like to honour and pay significant thanks to the indefatigable Linda Whetstone for her guidance, support, and friendship in helping us get up and running.

Linda was on the IATPs Advisory Council until her passing in December 2021. Since then, we have been partnering with Linda's charity - The Network for a Free Society (NFS) in providing grants, supporting activities, and encouraging change in Africa.

Through working with the Institute of Economic Affairs, both the IATP and NFS have been ensuring that those who Linda mentored and cared for still have the support, both financially and morally, to continue fighting for freedom.

Linda was an assiduous force for change and the promotion of the virtues of freedom throughout Africa. We are honoured to have worked so closely with her and to be carrying on her legacy in corners of the world that need it the most.

NETWORK
FOR A
**FREE
SOCIETY**

OUR ACTIVITIES

We work with think tanks across Africa and help support them in their activities and outputs that champion free trade and economic liberalism. By working to remove barriers to trade, both tariff and non-tariff alike, we aim to help usher in a new era of prosperity across the continent.

To help us accomplish this goal, we are grateful for the generous and continued support of the Rising Tide Foundation. Thanks to their support, the IATP and its partners create several papers, host dozens of events, publish over a hundred articles, and distribute more than ten thousand books.



59
EVENTS



14,800+
BOOKS DISTRIBUTED



154
ARTICLES PUBLISHED



11,750+
ATTENDEES



50+
TEXTS AVAILABE
IN VIRTUAL LIBRARY



20
GRANTS PROVIDED





SPOTLIGHT 1 **BRINGING CHANGE TO TANZANIA**



Educate and Empower

Partnering with Liberty Sparks has enabled the IATP to support the leading voice for change and freedom in Tanzania.

The IATP has supported Liberty Sparks through various grants to undertake activities encouraging Tanzanians to take control of their own future and promote greater freedom and inclusiveness.

The IATP supported Liberty Sparks in hosting their annual Uhuru Conference.



“We are creating a community of people we previously haven’t reached that are championing change and this wouldn’t have been possible without the IATP”

*- Evans Exaud
Founder and CEO, Liberty Sparks*

This one-day conference brought together over 600 Tanzanian students who are interested in economics and entrepreneurship. Throughout the day, the students received copies of the Swahili translation of the IEA’s ‘An Introduction to Trade and Globalisation’ by Dr Eamonn Butler. The conference held discussion sessions surrounding the book, encouraging the students to set up reading groups and enter essay competitions on the topics.

For students who are passionate about the African Continent Free Trade Agreement, Liberty Sparks hosted seminars to discuss the benefits of wider ratification and how free trade can create a freer and more prosperous Africa.

With the support of other IATP grants, Liberty Sparks have been able to run educational training events focused on approaches to free trade and globalisation which reached 204 Government agency officials, 42 Members of Parliament, 16 senior journalists and 35 primary and secondary school teachers.

SPOTLIGHT 2
**BUILDING A
FREER FUTURE
IN THE
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO**



The Congo We Want

The IATP is thrilled to have provided technical and financial support to the Center for Development and Enterprises Democratic Republic of the Congo's first ever educational project on free trade in the DRC.

The project 'The Congo We Want' advocates for education on the benefits of free trade between the DRC, its neighbours and the rest of the world.



CDR-DRC have been hosting seminars with business leaders, cross-border traders, and journalists educating them on the ideas present in the IEA's 'Introduction to Trade and Globalisation'.

The IATP has provided support to CDE with the production of a policy brief which talks about the state of trade in Africa and analyses the consequences of protectionist trade policies on the Congolese people.

The team at CDE-DRC have engaged with 40 senior public officials and have managed to provide them with copies of the policy brief and the IEA book and educate them about the virtues of free trade.

Espoir Bindu, Executive Director of CDE-DRC said "This project in the DRC is considered one of the most appropriate solutions to reduce the rate of poverty in the DR Congo. This educational project has been reflected in the public speeches of several influential leaders of civil society and the media who has also written 13 Articles about the ideas of free trade that we have taught them."



"We are changing the lives of many Congolese cross-border traders by bringing about public policy reforms on trade in the DRC."

*- Espoir Bindu
Executive Director, CDE-DRC*





MEET OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL





Franklin Cudjoe

Founding President and CEO of IMANI Centre for Policy and Education, World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader 2010



Douglas Carswell

President and CEO of the Mississippi Center for Public Policy, former Member of Parliament (UK) and Co-founder of Vote Leave



Linda Kavuka

Director of African Programs at Students for Liberty, international trade lawyer and Advocate of the High Court of Kenya



Marian L. Tupy

Editor of HumanProgress.org, Senior Fellow in the Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity at the Cato Institute



Chris Hattingh

Senior Policy Analyst at the Centre for Risk Analysis, Senior Fellow at African Liberty



Ibrahim Anoba

Editor of African Liberty and Fellow of the Center for African Prosperity (CAP) at the Atlas Network

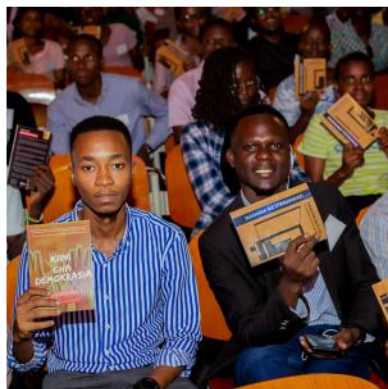
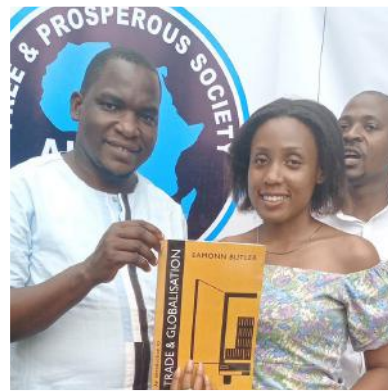
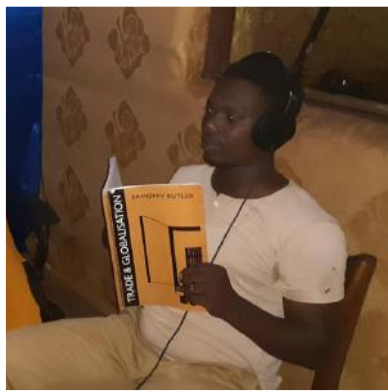


Garreth Bloor

President of the Canada-Africa Chamber of Business and co-founder of the Africa Foresight Fund in 2020









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Initiative for African Trade & Prosperity



www.theIATP.org



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