

## WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (UEMOA)

Founded in 1994, the UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) aims to reinforce the competitiveness of the economic and financial activities of member states in the context of an open and rival market and a rationalized and harmonized juridical environment; to ensure the convergence of the macro-economic performances and policies of member states with the institution of a multilateral control procedure; to create a common market among member states based on the free circulation of the people, goods, services and capital and on the right of people exercising an independent or remunerated activity to establish a common external tariff as well as a common commercial policy; to institute a co-ordination for the national sector-based policies with the implementation of common actions and conceivably common policies, especially in the following domains: community-based land reclamation, agriculture, environment, transport, infrastructures, telecommunications, human resources, energy, industries, mines and crafts; and to harmonize the legislation, especially the fiscal system, of the member states if the necessity arose for the proper functioning of the common market.

*Members.* Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo.

*Headquarters:* 01 B.P. 543, Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso.

## COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)

COMESA is an African economic grouping of 20 member states who are committed, over the long term, to the creation of a Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. It was established in 1994 as a building block for the African Economic Community and replaced the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa, which had been in existence since 1981.

*Members.* Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

*Objectives.* To facilitate the removal of the structural and institutional weaknesses of member states so that they are able to attain collective and sustainable development.

*Activities.* COMESA's Free Trade Area (FTA) was launched on 31 Oct. 2000 at a Summit of Heads of States and Government in Lusaka, Zambia. The FTA participating states shall have zero tariff on goods and services produced in these countries.

In addition to creating the policy environment for freeing trade, COMESA has also created specialized institutions like the Trade and Development Bank of Eastern and Southern Africa, the COMESA Re-Insurance Company, the Clearing House and the COMESA Court of Justice, to provide the required financial infrastructure and service support.

*Official languages.* English, French, Portuguese.

*Headquarters:* COMESA Secretariat, COMESA Centre, Ben Bella Road, PO Box 30051, 10101 Lusaka, Zambia.

*Website:* <http://www.comesa.int>

*Secretary General:* Erastus Mwencha (Kenya).