



# National University of Lesotho World Trade Organization (NUL-WTO) Chair 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

*The Political Economy of Regional Integration and  
International Trade in Africa*  
5 - 6 October, 2023

ISAS Auditorium, Roma or Virtual (Zoom):  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89844916513?pwd=cmcvVpkaHpUVi8xMmVPdFFsWlFPQT09>  
(Meeting ID: 898 4491 6513; Passcode: 842514)

## PROGRAMME

Programme Director: **Dr Tsotang Tsietsi**; Co-Chair *NUL-WTO Chair*

Time is based on the Southern African Time Zone (Lesotho local time)

### DAY 1: THURSDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023

08:30 – 09:00 Registration (ISAS Auditorium) / Signing into the Zoom platform  
09:00 – 09:10 Opening Remarks - **Dr 'Matsepo Kulehile**; Ag. Dean, Faculty of Law, NUL  
09:10 – 09:50 Keynote Address – **Mr Tsotetsi Makong**; Eastern and Southern African  
Management Institute (ESAMI) – Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA)  
WTO Co-chair

### SESSION I: GENDER AND TRADE PANEL

Chair **Prof Peter Khaola**, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, NUL

09:50 – 10:05 Gender-Trade Issues: The Effect of AGOA on Female Participation in African  
Labour Markets

**Presenter: Rorisang Lesaoana – National University of Lesotho**

10:05 – 10:10 **Discussant: Chengetai Euphemia Hamadziripi**

10:10 – 10:25 Trade and Gender Gap in Africa's Labour Market: Are Institutions a Friend or Foe?

**Presenter: Martins Iyoboyi - Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Katsina  
State, Nigeria**

10:25 – 10:30 **Discussant: Mamotebang Tsoeunyane**

10:30 – 11:00 **Q & A / General Discussions**

**11:00-11:10 Group Photo**

**11:10-11:40 Tea & Coffee Break**



## SESSION II:

Chair

## ECONOMIC PANEL

Dr Leseko Makhetha - National University of Lesotho

11:40 – 11:55

Tax and International Trade In the SADC Region: A Panel Gravity Model Approach

**Presenter: Joalane Rosina Tota – National University of Lesotho**

11:55 – 12:00

**Discussant: Makeletso Khoeli**

12:00 – 12:15

Econometric Analysis of the Drivers of Interest Rate Spread in the Financial System in Sub-Saharan Africa: Period from 2000 to 2019

**Presenter: Joseph Ndagijimana - University of Rwanda**

12:15 – 12:20

**Discussant: Denis Nfor Yuni**

12:20 – 12:35

Tax Revenue Stability and Economic Growth in the SADC Region

**Presenter: Malikhetla Lenyatsa - National University of Lesotho**

12:35 – 12:40

**Discussant: Tsietsi Khopholi**

12:40 – 12:55

The Political Economy of International Trade, Colonial Heritage and Economic Development in Africa

**Presenter: Denis Nfor Yuni – National University of Lesotho**

12:55 – 13:00

**Discussant: Joseph Ndagijimana**

13:00 – 13:30

**Q & A / General Discussions**

13:30 – 14:30

**Lunch Break**

## SESSION III:

Chair

## REGIONAL INTEGRATION PANEL

Dr Denis Nfor Yuni - National University of Lesotho

14:30 – 14:45

Contextualising 4IR in Intra-African Trade – Critical Reflections.

**Presenter: Tanatsiwa Dambuzza - Zimbabwe Institute of African Integration**

14:45 – 14:50

**Discussant: Dr Emeka C. Iloh**

14:50 – 15:05

The Extension of 'Safeguard Measures' in South Africa within and outside the Framework of the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Goods

**Presenter: Clive Vinti – University of the Free State**

15:05 – 15:10

**Discussant: Dr Ukwueze, Ezebuilo R.**

15:10 – 15:25

ECOWAS – WAEMU Dichotomy: Challenges for Regional Integration and Intra-Regional Trade in West Africa

**Presenter: Dr Emeka C. Iloh - Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria**

15:25 – 15:30

**Discussant: Tanatsiwa Dambuzza;**

15:30 – 15:45

Assessing the Influence of International Rating Agencies on Investment and Development in Sahelian African States

**Presenter: Tindo Narcisse Saturnin Kaze - Pan-African Institute for Development-West Africa and University of Yaounde I, Cameroon.**



15:45 – 15:50 **Discussant: Clive Vinti**  
15:50 – 16:20 **Q & A / General Discussions**  
**16:20 - 16:40 Tea & Coffee Break**

## **DAY 2: FRIDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

### **SESSION IV: DIGITAL TRADE AND BLOCK-CHAIN PANEL**

**Chair** Tanatsiwa Dambuza - Zimbabwe Institute of African Integration

09:00 – 09:15 The Effect of Digital Technology on Trade Within the SADC Region  
**Presenter: Nkati Tsotleho – National University of Lesotho**

09:15 – 09:20 **Discussant: Martins Iyoboyi**

09:20 – 09:35 Unlocking Transparency and Efficiency: Exploring the Potential of Blockchain Technology in Regional Trade.  
**Presenter: Chido Teclar Mitchel Muza - University of Pretoria**

09:35 – 09:40 **Discussant: Bouraima Sawadogo**

09:40 – 09:55 Trade in Services and Sub-Sahara African countries participation in GVC: Do modern and traditional services matter?  
**Presenter: Bouraima Sawadogo – Pan-African University, Cameroon**

09:55 – 10:00 **Discussant: Chido Teclar Mitchel Muza**

10:00 – 10:15 Incorporating gender dimensions of trade facilitation in E-commerce: A critical analysis of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)  
**Presenter: Chengetai Euphemia Hamadziripi - Midlands State University, Zimbabwe**

10:15 – 10:20 **Discussant: Nkati Tsotleho**

10:20 – 10:50 **Q & A / General Discussions**  
**10:50 - 11:10 Tea & Coffee Break**

### **SESSION V: SOCIO-POLITICAL PANEL**

**Chair** Chido Teclar Mitchel - University of Pretoria

11:10 – 11:25 The effects of size and product quality on local and regional competitiveness: The implications for small agri-businesses and countries in Africa  
**Presenter: Prof Peter Khaola – National University of Lesotho**

11:25 – 11:30 **Discussant: Stanislas Bigirimana**

11:30 – 11:45 The Post-Colonial African States and the Dilemma of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): A Prognostic Analysis



	<b>Presenter: Dr Udalla, Ernest Arinze - Madonna University Nigeria</b>
11:45 – 11:50	<b>Discussant: Tindo Narcisse Saturnin Kaze</b>
11:50 – 12:05	Satisfying Needs, Building Capabilities: The Contribution of Trade to Sustainable and Inclusive Socio-Economic Development <b>Presenter: Stanislas Bigirimana - College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance Africa University</b>
12:05 – 12:10	<b>Discussant: Prof Peter Khaola</b>
12:10 – 12:25	The Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the African Continental Trade Area as a Preserve of Elites – a missed Opportunity for Regional Integration in Africa <b>Presenter: Tomasz Milej - Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya</b>
12:25 – 12:30	<b>Discussant: Udalla, Ernest Arinze</b>
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Q &amp; A / General Discussions</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>SESSION VI:</b>	<b>DEPENDABLE ECOSYSTEM AND ENVIRONMENT PANEL</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Joalane Rosina Tota – National University of Lesotho</b>
14:00 – 14:15	Building a Self-Sustaining and Dependable Ecosystem of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Africa: The Move by AfCFTA <b>Presenter: Mamotebang Tsoeunyane – National University Lesotho</b>
14:15 – 14:20	<b>Discussant: Tomasz Milej</b>
14:20 – 14:35	Trade and the Environment: Does climate change affect international trade in sub-Saharan African countries? <b>Presenter: Dr Ukwueze, Ezebuilo R. - University of Nigeria, Nsukka</b>
14:35 – 14:40	<b>Discussant: Rorisang Lesaoana</b>
14:40 – 14:55	Climate Change and International Trade Nexus in Lesotho <b>Presenter: Makeletso Khoeli - National University of Lesotho</b>
14:55 – 15:00	<b>Discussant: Malikhetla Lenyatsa</b>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Q &amp; A / General Discussions</b>
15:30 - 15:50	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>
15:50 – 16:00	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Vote of Thanks</b> <b>Prof Motlamelle Kapa; WTO Chair, National University of Lesotho</b>