COMESA SUMMIT ENDORSES THE REVISED AID FOR TRADE STRATEGY

(2012-2015)

During the just ended COMESA summit held in Kampala, Uganda, Summit in recognition of the need for Member States to align their national programmes to the Aid for Trade objectives adopted the revised COMESA Aid for Trade Strategy (2012-2015). The Strategy seeks to build on the successes of its predecessor and to address the challenges still outstanding in the region.

The Strategy aims for the attainment of a fully integrated, internationally competitive regional economic community within which the sustainable growth and development of the Member States is founded on a balanced and harmonious development of production and marketing structures, to the benefit of all the peoples of the regional community. To achieve this, the Strategy offers an improved approach to the mobilization, utilization and monitoring of aid for trade resources in the COMESA region. The efficacy of the Strategy is dependent upon well coordinated efforts of the various stakeholders involved including the Secretariat, Member States, private sector and Development Partners.

It will support and strengthen the implementation of regional integration policies and programmes by strengthening regional and national institutional capacities, and enhancing coordination and effectiveness within and among implementing institutions in Member States’ countries. The adopted strategy will set the foundation for preparation of the fourth Global Aid for Trade review whose focus will be on how developing countries are participating in global value chains and the barriers they face. This will provide a great opportunity for the region to showcase impact achieved so far, and also to explore additional funding possibilities.