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## SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION SECRETARIAT

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<b>External Document</b>	03/07/07
<b>Purpose</b>	Press Statement
<b>Circulation</b>	All
<b>Subject</b>	SACU Council of Ministers Meeting To be held on 06 July 2007 in Windhoek, Namibia.
<b>Date of media release issue</b>	03 July 2007

1. The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Council of Ministers meeting is scheduled for Friday 06 July 2007 in Windhoek, Namibia.
2. The SACU Council of Ministers consists of Ministers of Finance and Trade from each Member State (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland). It is the supreme decision making authority on SACU matters and it meets on a quarterly basis to discuss and make decisions on issues relating to the Policy direction; Policy mandates and the functioning of SACU Institutions.

3. The meeting will be preceded by the SACU Commission Meeting which will also be held in Windhoek, Namibia from the 04 to the 05 July 2007, in preparation for the Council Meeting.
4. The Council of Ministers Meeting will preside on a number of priority and strategic lines of action with regards to the implementation of the 2002 SACU Agreement.
5. The meeting will discuss among other things SACU's Regional Integration initiatives which are coordinated by a Task Team that was established by the SACU Council of Ministers in December 2006, with the primary mandate of developing a SACU wide Strategy for the three year period 2008 - 2010.
6. Council will also get an update on Trade Negotiations and take decisions on key issues with regards to furthering SACU Trade Relations and SACU Trade Negotiations with third parties.

7. Also on the agenda is the establishment of the SACU Tariff Board, SACU Tribunal and National Bodies as provided for in the SACU 2002 Agreement. The said Institutions will facilitate acceleration in the implementation of the Agreement.
  
8. The first SACU Council of Ministers meeting for the year 2007 was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in Swaziland.

**End.**

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*For more information on SACU access it's website at [www.sacu.int](http://www.sacu.int)*