

MEDIA RELEASE

SACU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING 30 MARCH 2012, CENTURION LAKE HOTEL, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

1. South Africa, being one of the SACU Member States will be hosting a SACU Council of Ministers' meeting on 30 March 2012, at the Centurion Lake Hotel, Pretoria, South Africa. This will be the 26th Council of Ministers' meeting following the coming into force of the SACU Agreement, 2002 on 15th July 2004. The meetings are held quarterly, and are preceded by Commission meetings, a body comprising of Senior Government Officials from all the five Member States.
2. The SACU Council is comprised of Ministers of Finance, and Ministers of Trade and Industry from the five SACU Member States namely Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. Under the SACU Agreement, 2002, Council is currently the highest decision making authority on all SACU matters. A new development in the structure will result from the institutionalization of Summit, which will then assume supremacy status.
3. Issues for consideration by the Council of Ministers will include the SACU Executive Secretary's Report. As this is the first report for 2012, it takes into account developments during the first quarter of 2012. In this regard the report provides an update on the internal Secretariat's initiatives to implement the SACU Work Programme.
4. Other issues to be tabled before the Council of Ministers include reports of work that has been undertaken as part of the on-going SACU work programme, such as:
 - (i) Revenue Issues

- (a) Council will consider a progress report on the ongoing review of the Revenue Sharing Arrangement.
 - (b) Council will also receive and consider a Proposal for the Improvement of Trade Data Reconciliation among SACU Member States; an update on the Trade facilitation Programme and a report on the Quarterly Performance of the Common Revenue Pool, and
 - (c) A proposed Action Plan for Addressing the Improvement of Collection, Compilation and Dissemination of Trade Data in SACU Member States
- (ii) Development of a Regional Industrial Policy**
- (a) Council will receive an update on the work of the Industrial Development Policy Task Team.
- (iii) Establishing Common Institutions within Agreed Policy Framework**
- (a) Another issue for Council's consideration will be the draft Amendments to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Agreement 2002, to institutionalise the SACU Summit. Council will also consider Draft Rules of Procedure for the SACU Summit; an update on the establishment of the SACU Tribunal as well as a progress report on the establishment of the SACU Tariff Board.
- (iv) Unified Engagement in Trade Negotiations**
- (a) Council will receive a progress report on the ongoing trade negotiations with third parties. Council will consider SACU's trade negotiations work programme, in particular on the ongoing SACU-India PTA negotiations, SADC-EC APA negotiations, the SACU-USA TIDCA, the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite FTA negotiations and implementation issues relating to the SACU-EFTA FTA and the SACU-MERCOSUR PTA.
- (v) Other issues to be presented to council includes;**

- (a) A report on the review of the Technical Liaison Committees (TLC's) and
- (b) A report on the development of a Strategy for Engaging Non-State Actors in SACU Programmes.

END

SACU Secretariat
Windhoek
Namibia

Tel: + 264 61 295 8040
Fax: + 264 61 305 621
Mobile: + 264 81 122 9499

Info@sacu.int
www.sacu.int