DAY 3 – Wednesday 19 August Morning- East London Export Symposium Exhibition and Conference **Venue: East London Convention Centre**		
SESSION 1 – PLENARY **Facilitator: Mr Mbulelo Sogoni-** Director General: Office of the Premier		
08:30-08:40	***WELCOME***	
08:40-09:00	***OPENING REMARKS***	
09:00-09:20	***ADDRESS***	
09:20-09:50	**Geopolitics, Conflict, and Supply Chains: Turning Disruption into Opportunities** The impact of geopolitics on trade is significant, with each conflict potentially increasing shipping costs by R10,000 to R50,000 per container. However, these disruptions also pave the way for new trade corridors that can be advantageous for companies in emerging markets. This creates opportunities for businesses to strategically position themselves in the evolving global trade landscape.	
09:50-10:20	**Lead Address** Enhancing Services and Digital Trade: Integrating African Regions into Global Value Chains for MSMEs. This address will focus on the pivotal role that services and digital trade play in linking African economies to the broader global value chains. We will explore strategies to empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises MSMEs) within the African region, highlighting innovative approaches and best practices that facilitate their integration into global markets. By fostering collaboration and leveraging technology, we aim to enhance economic growth and create sustainable development opportunities across the continent.	
10:20-10:50	KEYNOTE SPEAKER The AfCFTA should be viewed as a development agreement, not merely a free trade agreement, because it aims to transform African economies through industrialization, investment, digital trade and regional integration.	
10:50– 11:30 TEA BREAK **Ministers, Premier, MEC, and Executive Mayors open the expo in the expo venue**		
SESSION 2 **Capital Attraction - Energy + Infrastructure as the Edge:** Harnessing foreign direct investment (FDI) and forming cross-border joint ventures.		
11:30-11:45	**SCENE SETTING**	

11:45-12:45	**EC Project Pitch** **SEZ/DEDEAT/TRANSNET to lead the session** 3-4 pre-vetted EC project pitches: number, MW Timeline, investment ask, 15 minutes each. Audience to include delegates from local and international financial institutions, such as DBSA, IDC, AFC, AfDB, ECIC, New Development Bank, GIZ, EU Commission, Business France, etc.	
12:45-13:40	PANEL DISCUSSION **Critical Minerals and the Global Energy Transition: Securing Africa's Place in the Future Industrial Economy** The panel will explore the role of critical minerals in the global energy transition, the geopolitics shaping supply chains, ethical and responsible extraction practices, and the opportunities for African countries to move up the value chain through beneficiation and regional industrial cooperation. Critical minerals have become the foundation of the global energy transition, underpinning the manufacture of electric vehicles, battery energy storage systems, renewable energy technologies, transmission infrastructure, and digital technologies. Africa possesses some of the world's largest reserves of copper, cobalt, lithium, manganese, graphite, nickel, rare earths, and platinum group metals, positioning the continent as a strategic player in the future global economy. However, a key challenge remains whether Africa will continue to export raw materials or leverage these resources to drive industrialization, local manufacturing, skills development, and economic transformation	
13:40-14:25	**Trade Agreements** **Session to be led by the dtic** Which Trade Agreement pays your invoice in 2026 In 2026, a new trade agreement will be implemented under the Global Rules Protect framework, streamlining the process for invoice payments. This agreement designates that the EU will receive 35% of the revenues, while the US will receive 25%. Firms can benefit from trade agreements that allow them to pay 0% duty to over 80 countries. This session will explore how EC companies leverage agreements such as the AfCFTA, the EU-SADC EPA, the AGOA, and recent BRICS partnerships to significantly reduce tariff costs and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles. Participants will gain a clear understanding of key concepts such as rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade standards, as well as CBAM compliance, explained in straightforward terms.	

	By identifying the most suitable agreement for their products, obtaining the correct certificate of origin, adhering to relevant standards, and optimizing compliance, businesses can position themselves to offer competitive pricing in the marketplace.	
14:25-14:35	**SUMMARY DAY 1**	
11:30-14:45	**THEMATICWORKSHOPS** Rules of Origins Technical Barriers to Trade & Solutions Logistics and Trase Facilitation **EXHIBITIONS/B2B**	**15:00 SITE TOURS EAST LONDON IDZ & MERCEDES BENZ SOUTH AFRICA FOR IBIM / INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES**
DAY 4 – Thursday 20 August London Export Symposium Exhibition and Conference **Venue- East London Convention Centre** **PROGRAM DIRECTOR DUNCAN BONNET:08:15-08:20**		
08:30-08:45	**SCENE SETTING**	
08:45-09:15	**South Africa-EC Economic Reality Check: Where we stand for Trade and Investment** Overview of the current state of trade and investment relations between South Africa and other regions. It highlights key economic indicators, evaluates recent trends, and assesses the opportunities and challenges that exist. By examining the existing frameworks and the overall environment for business, we aim to present a clear picture of where the region currently stands in terms of economic collaboration. Whether you are an investor, a policy-maker, or a business leader, this analysis will offer valuable insights into the dynamics shaping trade and investment activity.	
09:15-10:00	**Enabling MSME's for Digital & Services** Enhancing the Export Market: Empowering She Trades, Supporting Youth Ecopreneurs, and Providing Market Access Tools for Africa.	
10:00-10:45	**New Horizons: Emerging Markets** As we continue to engage with the global economy, it is crucial to focus on the immense potential of Africa and the Middle East. These regions are emerging as key players in international trade, offering unique opportunities for collaboration and investment. Africa, with its youthful population and abundant natural resources, is experiencing rapid economic growth and urbanization. This is driving rising demand across sectors, including	

	technology, infrastructure, and consumer goods. By fostering partnerships in these areas, businesses can tap into new markets and contribute to sustainable development. The Middle East is transforming its economic landscape, diversifying away from oil dependence and investing heavily in innovation and technology. The region is launching numerous initiatives to attract foreign investment and strengthen trade relationships. By leveraging these trends, companies can not only expand their operations but also contribute positively to the socioeconomic development of these regions. Engaging in these markets can lead to mutually beneficial relationships that drive growth and create shared value.	
10:45-11:30	**Strengthening Competitiveness in Traditional Markets** Traditional markets contribute to a dynamic network that bolsters international partnerships and enhances economic competitiveness. Traditional markets play a vital role in strengthening relationships and enhancing competitiveness among nations, serving as a platform for collaboration and economic growth. ECDC/dtic to develop content	
12:00-12:30	**BRICS Real Market Opportunities** The impending tariffs imposed by the US under AGOA at a rate of 25%, combined with the EU CBAM costs of 35%, are set to exert significant pressure on exports from the EC by the year 2026. While these challenges loom, nations within the BRICS coalition—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—are emerging as enticing alternative markets that offer counter-seasonal buying opportunities with an appealing tax rate of 0%. China is poised to introduce a 0% tariff policy starting May 1, 2026, which is likely to further enhance its attractiveness as a trading partner. Meanwhile, Russia is currently offering a premium on winter fruits, reflecting a robust demand for these seasonal products. In India, the appetite for imports has astonishingly quadrupled, even as the country imposes substantial tariffs of 50% on certain goods. For EC, this evolving landscape highlights an urgent need to diversify export strategies. Failure to adapt could result in a detrimental loss of market share in both the EU and US markets. The BRICS countries present not only a hedge against potential losses but also a promising growth opportunity for EC exports, particularly in sectors such as citrus fruits, automotive parts, and manganese, which could significantly benefit from redirected trade flows. ECDC & BRICS Business Council to develop content	

12:30:13:15	**Session to be led by the SAEEC** Digital Exports 101 Building Africa's Next Export Industry Through Connectivity, Cloud, AI, and Digital Trade Digital tools provide African enterprises with unprecedented visibility in some of the world's most lucrative markets. Through search engines, e-commerce platforms, cloud-based services, digital advertising and artificial intelligence, African businesses can reach customers in Europe and North America while operating from their home countries. The challenge is therefore no longer simply access to markets. The challenge is ensuring that African businesses are visible, competitive, and trusted in digital marketplaces. Success will depend on improving digital infrastructure, strengthening online discoverability, leveraging AI and digital marketing tools, enabling cross-border digital payments, and creating policy frameworks that allow African businesses to trade seamlessly across borders. This session will explore how governments, telecommunications providers, cloud infrastructure companies, digital platforms, and trade institutions can work together to ensure that African businesses (particularly SMMEs, women-owned enterprises, youth-owned enterprises, and startups) are able to leverage digital platforms to grow from local enterprises into regional and international exporters.	
13:15-14:00 LUNCH		
14:00-14:45	**Financing Exports** To maximize your effectiveness as a buyer, it's crucial to ensure that you can adequately finance production and ensure timely payment. It's important to align the size of your deals with the right funding sources to achieve successful transactions.	
14:45-15:30	**EC SECTOR SHOWCASE/BREAKAWAY SESSION** EC currently offers a diverse range of export-ready products that cater to various sectors, including automotive, manufacturing, agriculture, services, and environmentally friendly products. As we set our sights on the year 2026, it becomes increasingly critical to analyze specific markets where potential buyers are focusing their investments and securing off-take agreements. By gaining insight into these market trends and consumer preferences, we can strategically position our offerings to better meet demand and maximize our growth potential. This proactive approach will not only enhance our competitive edge but also ensure that our product development is closely aligned with the evolving needs of the market.	

	Automotive & EV Components (AIDC-EC to develop content) Agro-processing (ECDC/DoA/ECRDA to develop content) Manufacturing (DEDEAT/ECDC to develop content) BPO+Digital Services (ECDC/BEPESA to develop content)	
15:30-15:45	CLOSING REMARKS	CEO-ECDC
15:00-18:30 INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES TRAVEL TO GQEBERHA		
Thematic Workshops Export Finance and Financial Instruments Export Compliance Toolkit Digital Export Tool, Market Intelligence platforms, AI tools for export market research B2B AND EXHIBITIONS		
Day 3 Friday 21.08.2026		
09:00-11:00	**Business Seminar** Opening & Welcoming Remarks Safety Briefing Introduction & Outline of the Seminars Brief Overview of Coega Development Corporation with a focus on: • Automotive Supplier Park Development • Renewable Energy Developments Overview of the Coega Africa Programme Discussion	CEO/EXECUTIVE MANAGER BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COEGA
Tea Break 11:00-11:30		
11:30-13:00 SITE TOUR		
13:00-14:00 LUNCH		
15:00-18:00 Travel from Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)to Johannesburg OR LEISURE EVENING		