

**4<sup>th</sup> Euro Africa Forum for ICT Research:  
14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011; Cape Town**

**Regional Integration and ICT  
Research**



## **1. Regional Integration**

- Trends & Motivation
- Regional Integration and Trade
- ICT, Regional Integration

## **2. ICT Research**

- Trade Facilitation
- Manufacturing
- Trade in Services

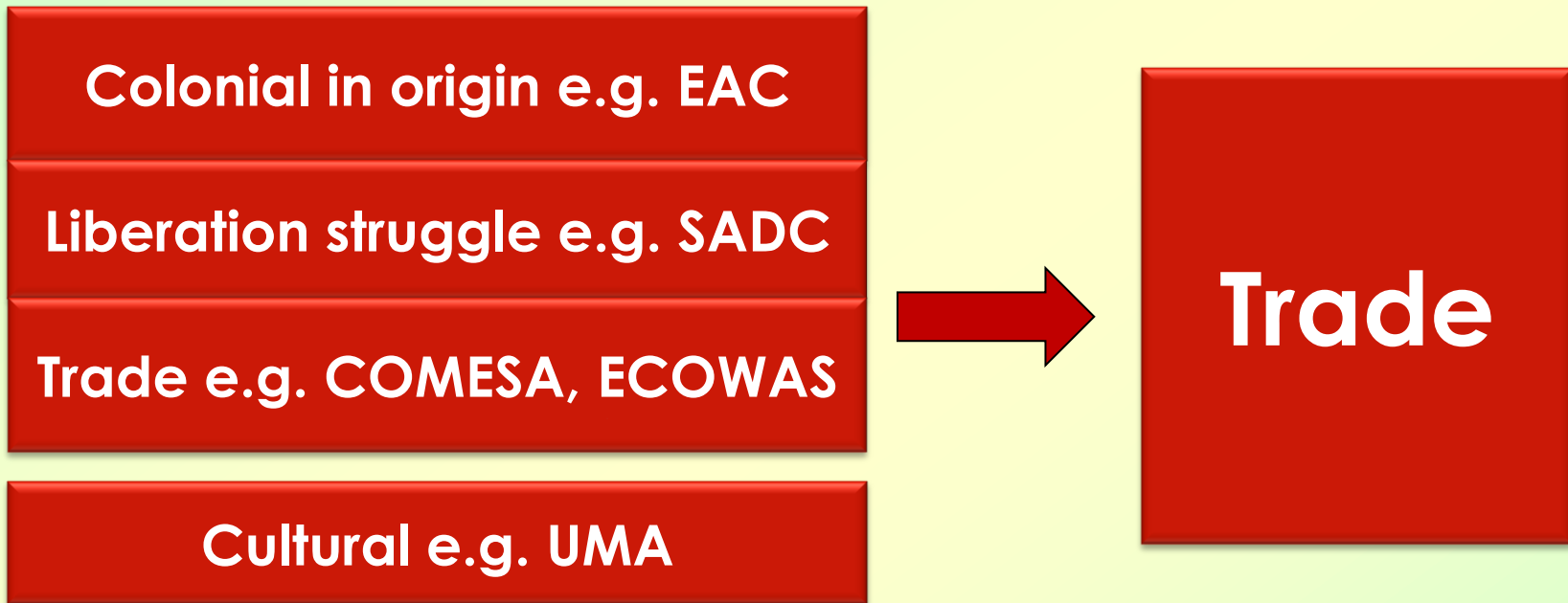
## **3. What should be Done**

## **4. Conclusions**



# 1.1 RECs in Africa: Different Origin, One Purpose

**Different motivation for formation of RECs in Africa, over the years enhancement of trade convergence**



**Strong consensus and political will for integration; may be divergences on pace and depth of integration**



## 1.2 Regional Integration, Trade and Development

There is strong correlation between regional integration and trade performance

Table 1: Intra-regional share of trade in Goods

Region	2000	2009
Africa	9.2%	11.7%
Asia	49.1%	51.6%
CIS	20.1%	19.2%
Europe	73.2%	72.2%
Middle east	8.7%	15.5%
North America	55.7%	48.0%
South and Central America	25.6%	26.1%

Source: WTO Secretariat

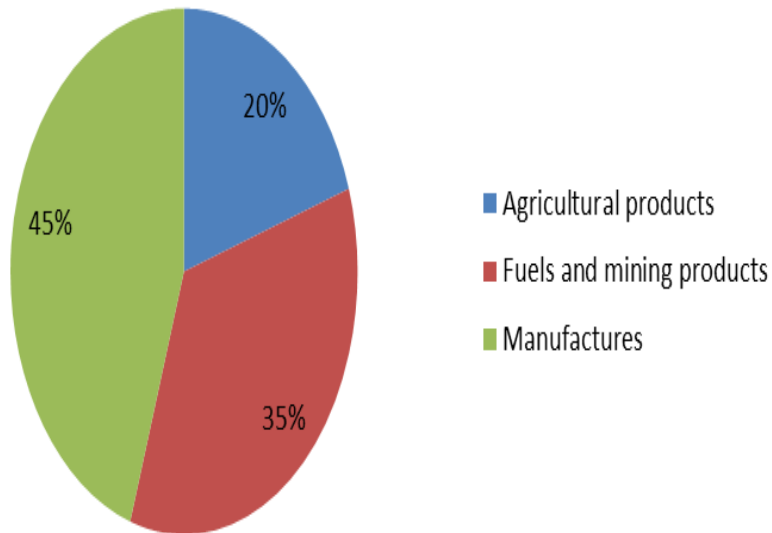


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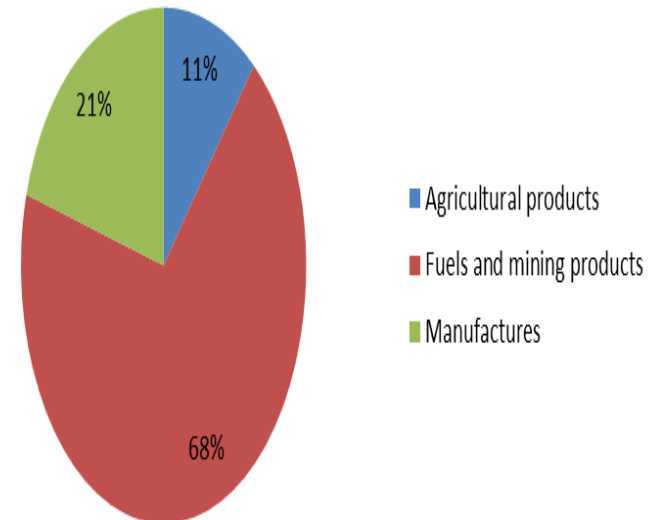
# 1.2 ` Regional Integration and Trade

**Much of African exports are primary commodities, ICT can help address this imbalance**

**Intra-African exports**



**Extra-African exports**



## 1.3 ICT and intra-regional trade

### ICT can contribute to enhancing trade performance

#### Trade facilitation

- Tool for transparent and efficient transfer of goods (e.g customs automation)
- Trade logistics
- Information exchange

#### Diversification of products

- Manufacturing of ICT products
- Industrial technology, hence value addition

#### Trade in services

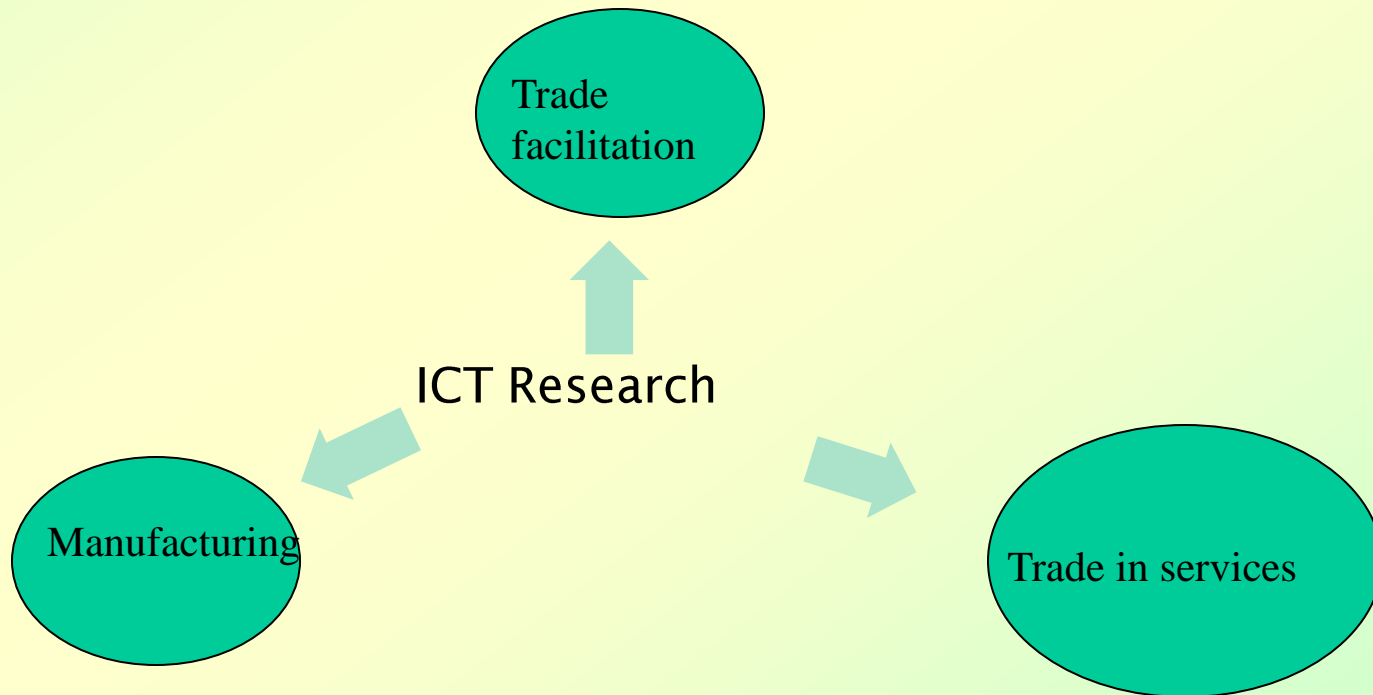
- System integration
- Software development



## 2 Research in ICT

Research enlarges knowledge base, which is universal  
(i.e. Not African)

However, research may emphasize alleviating African  
problems



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## 2.1 ICT Research for Trade Facilitation

Communications technologies

Software development



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## 2.2 ICT Research for Manufacturing

**Research in bio-processing**

**Biotechnology**

**Material Science**

**Nanotechnology**

**Renewal Energy**



## 2.3 ICT Research for Trade in Services

**Software Development**

**Systems integration**

**Space Science and Technology, Remote Sensing**



## 3.1 What should African Governments?

Improve governance

Develop and implement policies conducive to research

Enhance funding on education and research



## 3.2 How should Rest of the World do?

### Develop partnerships for research and technology transfer

- Networking among researchers, identification of research priorities, guidance and dialogue with policy makers

### Market Access

- Enhanced market access of products and services of African origin will spur and sustain research and productivity
- African countries and the rest of the World should thus develop frameworks enhanced market access



# Conclusions

**Trade is key to economic development; ICT can contribute significantly to enhancing trade performance**

**In a knowledge economy, R&D is a critical ingredient for sustainability**

**ICT R&D is essential for spurring and sustaining economic development agenda**



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Thank you



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