

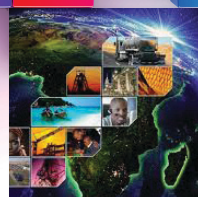
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Comparability of measurement results will be one of the cornerstones for the success of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) especially in terms of the reduction of technical or non-tariff barriers to trade. A fully integrated quality infrastructure is a key component for the establishment of comparability of measurement results across the continent. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will cover a market of 1.2 billion people and a gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 2.5 trillion. AfCFTA will be the world's largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organization. It has the potential both to boost intra-African trade by 52.3% by eliminating import duties, and to double this trade if non-tariff barriers are also reduced.

The challenges to serve and sustain Africa's ecosystems of unparalleled richness are enormous: It is fair to state that the human-animal-ecosystem interfaces in much of the continent with its rich and diverse fauna and flora, biodiversity and cultures are unique and more complicated than elsewhere. It is increasingly accepted that these challenges can only be addressed by One Health approaches. This concept is defined as the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines working together locally, nationally, and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment. It necessitates multi-faceted and interdisciplinary networking and collaboration between experts in the professions of veterinary, human health, environmental, ecological, agricultural, and conservation sciences, to name but a few.

Measurement science facilitates standardisation for interchangeability in modular product development. Modular product design inherently combines the mass production advantages of standardisation with those of customisation. If properly defined and conceived in the design strategy, modular systems can create significant competitive advantage in markets. These include minimising cost by reducing the diversity of parts in a product range. Modular products enable faster, easier and more efficient customisation of standard products to unique user needs, enables quick and easy upgrades, are more resistant to becoming obsolete and are easier to service and maintain.

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