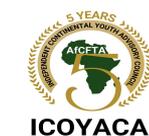


10

Key Trade Terms to Know Ahead of MC14

Trade negotiations shape prices, jobs and borders. This card explains what's actually being discussed in Yaoundé — in plain language.



01

A TAX ON IMPORTED GOODS

Tariff

A fee charged when goods cross a border. Tariffs protect local producers but raise prices for buyers. Reducing tariffs is at the heart of most trade negotiations.



02

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR PRODUCERS

Subsidy

Financial support given by a government to its own industries or farmers. Subsidies lower costs but can create unfair advantages in global markets when heavily used.



03

MAKING TRADE FASTER & SIMPLER

Trade Facilitation

Cutting customs paperwork and bureaucratic delays at borders. Simpler procedures lower costs for traders — especially small businesses and exporters in developing countries.



04

SPECIAL & DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

S&DT

WTO rules giving developing countries and LDCs extra time and flexibility to implement trade commitments — because not all countries start from the same economic position.



05

MOST FAVOURED NATION

MFN Principle

A WTO rule that trade benefits given to one member must generally apply to all. Exceptions exist for regional blocs like AfCFTA and bilateral deals like EPAs — making it a baseline, not an absolute.



06

THE WTO'S TRADE COURT

Dispute Settlement

The formal process for resolving trade disagreements between members. When one country believes another has broken the rules, it can bring a case. One of the most active international legal systems in the world.



07

COMMERCE ACROSS THE INTERNET

Digital Trade

Trade in goods and services conducted online — including software, apps, data and e-commerce. WTO rules here will shape whether Africa's fast-growing tech economy competes on fair global terms.



08

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

TRIPS

The WTO agreement setting global minimum standards for protecting inventions, creative works, brands and data. For Africa, key debates involve access to affordable medicines and technology transfer to developing nations.



09

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY

LDC

The UN's classification for countries with the lowest income and human development levels. The WTO grants LDCs special treatment — more time and flexibility to open their markets. Several African nations fall in this category.



10

HIDDEN OBSTACLES TO TRADE

Non-Tariff Barrier

Restrictions that are not tariffs — such as excessive licensing rules, unnecessary regulations or slow customs inspections. NTBs are often harder to spot and remove than tariffs but can be just as damaging.