

Driving Regional Integra-tion through Industrialization: A Survey of Regional Institutional Requirements for the East African Community

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Economic integration is an important target in the integration process that is pursued by the East African Community (EAC). In this connection, the inter-dependence and interlocking of the ‘real economies’ provide reliable measures of the strength of regional economic integration. Moreover, the fact that international economic relations are driven by international trade, while international trade is, in turn, dominated by manufactured goods, underlines the role of industrialization in propelling the integration of the ‘real economies’. Cognizant of these interfaces, this paper highlights the institutional gaps that must be addressed in the EAC in order to harness the power of industrialization in driving regional integration. Taking into account the particularities of the EAC countries, it proposes a set of institu-tions, which must be enhanced or put in place, in order to promote balanced and sustainable industrialization across the bloc. Deriving from empirical experiences elsewhere, the paper shows that several institutions come under question, which can be broadly categorized into industrial finance institutions, institutions for the mobilization of industrial technologies, institutions for the development of industrial skills, institutions for the mobilization and development of industrial entrepreneurship; and standards, testing, metrology, and quality assurance (STMQ) institutions.