



In this fourth installment of the Global Illicit Trade Summit, The Economist Events brings the conversation to Africa. As the continent moves towards deeper integration, illicit trade is set only to increase. Porous borders facilitate the illegal flows that form a very real threat to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's modernization agenda and the wider region. More than ever, there is a clear business imperative to fight illicit trade. The African response so far, has been limp as public-private sector players struggle to stay ahead of a moving target. We examine the imperative to prepare for this new status quo and the challenges and opportunities at play.

AGENDA

8:00 AM REGISTRATION

8:55 AM CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

9:00 AM KEYNOTE PANEL: THE STATE OF PLAY AND A CALL TO ACTION
Illicit trade is only set to increase as the continent moves towards deeper integration. The likes of the Tripartite Free Trade Area and The African Continental Free Trade Area will compound other drivers that are plagued by enforcement challenges. In this scene-setter, public-private voices from across the Horn of Africa discuss what needs to be done to prepare for this new status quo.

9:35 AM SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL

9:45 AM PANEL: POROUS BORDERS
Cross-border cooperation is integral to the fight against illicit trade. Of all its borders, Ethiopia's eastern one with Somalia is a key challenge. As the continent reforms its tax regimes at different speeds, criminals are quick to take advantage of the opportunities for arbitrage. Furthermore as Free Trade Zones mushroom, the pressure is on to ensure they are a source of legitimate economic growth. What best practices can be scaled and applied to the region?

10:20 AM NETWORKING BREAK

11:05 AM SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: ELECTRONICS



- 11:15 AM** **PANEL: ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS**
In Africa, illicit financial flows (IFFs) are estimated to surpass levels of development aid. This poses a multidimensional threat to Ethiopia and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's modernization agenda. According to Global Financial Integrity, in Ethiopia, IFFs lead to an average loss in GDP growth of 2.2% per year. The African response so far, has been limp. How can multi-stakeholder action across the government, financial institutions and civil society be prioritized and incentivized?
- 11:50 AM** **SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: PHARMACEUTICALS**
- 12:00 PM** **PANEL: THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY**
Heightened volatility in the region, has shone the spotlight on the link between terrorist organizations and illicit trade - especially as a source of funding. In Northwest Ethiopia, interceptions of illegal firearms from neighbouring Sudan are becoming more frequent. As Africa becomes the new terrorist battleground for ISIS and Al Qaeda, the sense of urgency is real. The cross border element makes these networks however particularly challenging to dismantle. What is the way forward?
- 12:35 PM** **SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: WILDLIFE**
- 12:45 PM** **PANEL: THE WAY FORWARD**
The Fourth Industrial Revolution is revolutionizing how illicit trade happens. Technological breakthroughs continue to equip both perpetrators and those combating it with a new toolkit to circumvent traditional barriers. We explore solutions. How are stakeholders staying ahead of a moving target?
- 1:20 PM** **CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**
- 1:25 PM** **NETWORKING LUNCH**