



COMESA – Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI)

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**Sudan Leather Value Chain Strategy Launch Event,
Unpacking Workshop & Other Activities**

**Khartoum, Sudan,
16th-18th March 2015**

Reporting Officers:

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

1. BACKGROUND

Following the signing of the Leather Value Chain Strategy (LVCS) Document by H.E. Dr. Yahiya Mukwar, Minister of Human Development and Labor of the Khartoum State, at the Embassy of the Sudan Republic in Addis Ababa, 23rd February 2015, the LVCS Launching Event and Unpacking Workshop took place in Khartoum, Sudan on the 16th and 17th March 2015 respectively.

The COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute Team of Experts led by the Executive Director, Mwinyikione Mwinyihija comprised of Dr. Tadesse H.Mamo, Training, Consultancy and Extension Expert (travelled on 15th March to Khartoum) and Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam, Leather Value Chain Expert/Consultant (travelled to Khartoum on 14th March) attended and facilitated the events as key partner with the Sudanese Event Coordinating Team.

Apart from the above activities, the Team of Experts had visited and discussed with relevant officials of the National Leather Technology Centre, Kerari Vocational Training and Entrepreneurs Centre, Leather Incubation Centre under the Sudan University of Science and Technology and attended Inter-Ministerial Meetings that discussed on the implementation programme of LVCS and the way forward.

COMESA-LLPI covered the travel expenses of its Team of Experts, COM\$ 6,968.20 and partially financed the LVCS Launch Event and Unpacking Workshop, amounting to COM\$ 5,002.28.

The present report is therefore a summary of the field Mission, the Launching Event and Unpacking Workshop activities conducted during the aforementioned period.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

To attend the LVCS Launch Event, conduct the LVCS Unpacking Workshop, visit to several leather centers and discuss with relevant institutions in Khartoum on bilateral and pending issue.

3. THE LVCS LAUNCH EVENT

The event was held at the Police House on the 16th of March 2015. Following the welcome address by the Private Sector Representative, key note addresses were made by Dr. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI, H.E Dr. Yahiya Mukwar, Minister of Human Development and Labor of the Khartoum State, H.E Eng. Abdella Ahmed Hamad, Minister of Industry and Investment of the Khartoum State respectively.

The vote of thanks was made by Professor Hashim Ali Salim, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Sudan University of Science and Technology and following his speech, H.E Mr. Osman Omer Ali Elsharif, Minister of Trade of the Sudan Republic made the official Statement on behalf of the Government of Sudan and announced the opening of the Leather Value Chain Strategy Launch Event.

The event was attended by more than 50 participants/ Leather Value Chain Stakeholders from various Ministries, Universities, Technology Centers, Agencies, Small, Medium and Large leather and leather products manufacturing enterprises, etc. The rationale of launching the LVCS is premised on the fact that it is vital for a coordinated approach.

4. THE LVCS UNPACKING WORKSHOP

As part and parcel of the LVCS Launch Event the, Workshop was held on the 17th March 2015 in the same venue (Police House) where the Launch Ceremony took place.

4.1 The Objectives of the LVC Strategy Unpacking Process

The objectives of the Unpacking process/ Workshop are to develop a holistic and collaborative approach that ensures the following.

- Integration,
- uniform implementation and
- appropriate financing mechanism

4.2 The LVCS Unpacking Workshop Participation

The Workshop involved 32 participants representing concerned Government Ministries, Authorities, Universities, Research Institutions, and Training Centers, Agencies, Civil Societies, SMEs representatives and support agencies and Experts Team from COMESA/LLPI.

Representing the Sudan Chamber, Engineer Suliman Mohamed, D.General Secretary, Leather and Footwear Chamber, gave a short introductory remark and briefing on the strategy document.

Dr. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI presented a paper entitled: **“The Role of Sudan’s Leather Sector towards Its Economic Performance: A Pre- and Potential Post- Launch Preview”**. Following his presentation, Dr. Tadesse H. Mamo and Prof. Mekonnen Hailemariam made briefing on the Leather Value Chain Strategy Formulation and its Unpacking Methodology that encompassed development of matrixis for annual planning implementation, communication and monitoring and evaluation. The workshop was started by handing over of the Leather Value Chain Strategy Document by Dr. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI to H.E. Engineer Sedik Mohammed Ali Sheik, Deputy Governor of the Khartoum State.

The workshop participants were divided in to 6 Working Groups and thoroughly discussed and worked on the implementation matrix that prepared by COMESA/LLPI for the unpacking of the 6 strategic objectives of the Sudan LVCS indicated here blow:

- a) Strengthen Horizontal and Vertical Collaboration among Value Chain Players and Stakeholders
- b) Improve Accessibility of Short and Long Term Finance to Enterprises
- c) Improve the Production of Quality of Hides and Skins
- d) Promote the Production of Value Added Products
- e) Enhance Efficiency and Effectiveness in Policy, Regulations and Export Procedures Implementation
- f) Facilitate the Establishment of Leather Industrial Parks with Common Effluent Treatment Plants and Promotion of Cleaner Production Techniques.

Workshop was officially closed by the blessing of H.E Dr. Yahiya Mukwar, Minister of Human Development and Labor of the Khartoum State and H.E. Engineer Sedik Mohammed Ali Sheik, Deputy Governor of the Khartoum State.

5. VISITS TO LEATHER CENTERS/ INSTITUTIONS

The COMESA-LLPI mission during its stay in Khartoum made visits to the National Leather Training Center (NLTC), the Leather Incubation Center of the Sudan University of Science and Technology and the Kerari Vocational Training and Entrepreneur Center (KVTEC). The discussions with these institutions majorly focused on various bilateral and outstanding issues.

6. WRAP-UP MEETING

The COMESA-LLPI Mission members held a very fruitful wrap up meeting with Excellencies Eng. Abdella Ahmed Hamad (Minster of Industry and Investment of the Khartoum State) and Dr Yhiya Mukwar (Minster of Human Resource and Labor of the Khartoum State) and other officials from the two ministries and Kerari Vocational Training Center on the 18th March 2015. The meeting discussed on the achievements of the Expert Team mission and the way forward with regard to the implementation of the strategy and collaboration with COMESA/LLPI. As part of facilitating the implementation of the LVCS, it was suggested and agreed to mount a visit program for concerned government Ministries officials to the Ethiopian Leather Industry.

7. CONCLUSION

The COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute Team of Experts would like to express its profound appreciation to the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Sudan, the Ministry of Human Development and Labor of the Khartoum State, the Ministry of Industry and Investment of the Khartoum State, the Sudan University of Science and Technology for their cooperation and assistance that led to a successful completion of the Expert Team mission activities.

Particular appreciation is extended to Mr. Hashim Fatah Alla Khalid, Consultant, MoHD of the Khartoum and Board Member of COMESAS/LLPI, Dr. Abelrahim M. Ahmed, D.G, Administration of Vocational Training Centers, Mr. Nasir Hashim, D.G OF Foreign Relations of the Khartoum State, Eng. Suleiman Mohammed, D.General Secretary, Leather and Footwear Chamber, Eng. Gassim Hasan Abdella, Director, Kerari Vocational Centre, who tirelessly devoted their time in the facilitation of the programme of the LLPI Mission.

Other individuals from public and private sectors also deserve our special gratitude for their overall support rendered during the implementation of the deferent activities of the Expert Team.

It is of paramount importance to note that the Unpacking process must put in place collaboration, responsibility, accountability, efficient and effectiveness in the implementation of the strategy.

Thanks