

The Shippers' Newsletter



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Dear Shippers,

The month of July 2026 at the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC)

featured the holding of an ordinary session of the Steering Committee of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (UASC) on 8 and 9 July 2026 in Douala. The session brought together General Managers and delegates from about fifteen UASC member states. Discussions focused on port handling costs and transit times, rising freight rates, surcharges and the harmonisation of the Electronic Cargo Tracking Note.

The CNSC also took part in the 17th edition of the Central African Annual Cross-

border Fair (FOTRAC) in Yaoundé, providing SMEs with an exhibition stand to promote locally processed products. Through this initiative, the CNSC helped promote Made in Cameroon products under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

To round off the month, mention must be made of the training workshop on Rules of Origin, organised by the CNSC from 29 June to 2 July 2026 in Douala, in partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC). The workshop brought together representatives of public administrative bodies, the private sector, and SME

promoters, to better understand the technical aspects of the Rules of Origin, thereby promoting Cameroon's foreign trade.

Have an enjoyable reading !

**Auguste Mbappe Penda,
CNSC General Manager**

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UASC

Steering Committee Members Meet in Douala*The Panel*

CNSC Head Office hosts ordinary session of the UASC Steering Committee.

An ordinary session of the Steering Committee of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (**UASC**) held in Douala on 8 and 9 July 2026. Organised by

the UASC Secretariat General with support from the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**), the session brought together General Managers and delegates from about fifteen African Shippers' Councils at CNSC's Head Office in Bonanjo.

The opening ceremony featured speeches by **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, CNSC's General Manager, and **Dr. Dominique Candide Fabrice Koumou Boulas**, General Manager of the Congolese Shippers' Council (**CCC**), in their respective capacities as Statutory Treasurer and current President of the UASC. Both officials stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation among African Shippers' Councils to better respond to the challenges of maritime transport and the international logistics chain.

Over the two-day session, participants examined several important issues, including port handling costs and transit times, trends in freight rates, surcharges applied to international trade in Africa, and the harmonisation of the Electronic Cargo Tracking Note. The discussions also provided an opportunity to review the implementation of resolutions adopted during previous sessions and the functioning of the UASC.

Consultations

The session aims to strengthen the economies of UASC member states.

After a two-day session, Steering Committee members of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (**UASC**) concluded their strategic meeting held on Thursday, 9 July 2026. The closing ceremony featured the reading of the final report and the adoption of six resolutions and two recommendations arrived at during the Committee meetings of 13 and 14 November 2024 in Lome, Togo.

The participants also passed a motion of gratitude and thanks to **H.E. Paul Biya**, President of the Republic of Cameroon, for his efforts in placing Africa in the limelight. **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) and Statutory Treasurer of the UASC, also received hearty congratulations

UASC Steering Committee Wraps Up Douala Session*A view of participants in session*

and thanks for his hospitality and unwavering efforts towards the organisation's smooth functioning.

In his closing remarks, **Dr. Dominique Candide Fabrice Koumou Boulas**, current UASC

President and General Manager of the Congolese Shippers' Council (**CCC**), congratulated all participants and urged them to implement recommendations aimed at boosting the economic buoyancy of UASC member States.

Trade Exchanges

CNSC Strengthens Stakeholders' Capacity on Rules of Origin



CNSC's General Manager poses with experts

Several international bodies are working closely with the CNSC to hone skills on the Rules of Origin.

From 29 June to 2 July, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) organised a training workshop on Rules of Origin in Douala - a key mechanism

for facilitating trade and enabling businesses to benefit from preferential trade agreements. With experts drawn from the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African

States (CEMAC), and the Cameroon Customs Administration, this workshop brought together about fifty representatives from public administrations, the private sector and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Opening the session, CNSC's General Manager, **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, acknowledged the support from the European Union, WCO, ECCAS, CEMAC and the Cameroon Customs. He also encouraged participants to make good use of the knowledge acquired during the training in order to boost their expertise in foreign trade.

According to **Dr. Jacob Kotcho Bongkwaha**, an expert from ECCAS, lack of knowledge on the Rules of Origin is an obstacle to making optimal use of the benefits offered by trade agreements. Beyond strengthening the capacities of the trainees, the workshop also sought to establish a network of trainers responsible for ensuring the sustainable dissemination of these skills among foreign trade stakeholders.

Consultations

CNSC and Partners Assess Rules of Origin Training



Group picture

Participants express overall satisfaction following training workshop.

Following the Rules of Origin training workshop held in Douala from 29 June to 2 July 2026, experts from the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Directorate General of Customs (DGD) held an evaluation session at the Head Office of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) on 2 July 2026. Chaired by CNSC's General Manager, **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, the session was an opportunity for **Mrs. Claire Onana Takouchop**, Director for Shippers' Assistance, to review the outcomes of the training and propose the organisation of two more training sessions before the end of 2026.

The experts from the WCO,

ECCAS and DGD commended the initiative led by the CNSC and noted that it would help strengthen the skills of foreign trade stakeholders and a better application of the Rules of Origin in commercial transactions. They also acknowledged the strong participation of public administrations, SMEs and other

stakeholders involved in the foreign trade chain. The experts commended the quality of discussions and the commitment demonstrated by participants throughout the training. In their opinion, this first session, dedicated to training trainers, marked an important step that would be reinforced through advanced training sessions.

At the end of the evaluation session, the General Manager of the CNSC, **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, expressed

profound gratitude to the experts for the quality of their inputs and commitment throughout the initiative. He also welcomed the cooperation ties established with these partners, whose expertise and presence will surely be required before the end of 2026 for the two upcoming phases of the training.

FOTRAC 2026

CNSC delivers a presentation on making cross-border trade more fluid within the AfCFTA.

From 24 to 31 July 2026, business persons, regional institutions and decision makers gathered at the Ahmadou Ahidjo Omnisport Stadium Annex No. 3 in Yaoundé for the 17th edition of the Central African Annual Cross-Border Trade Fair (**FOTRAC**). Organised by the Réseau des Femmes Actives de l'Afrique Centrale (**REFAC**) headed by **Mrs Danielle Nlate**, this year's edition focused on the theme: **"Evaluating the actions of socio-economic cooperation actors to facilitate trade and achieve sustainable development goals in the era of the AfCFTA"**. The 2026 edition placed particular emphasis on supporting SMEs, promoting entrepreneurial innovation and showcasing local products.

More than being just a trade exhibition, this edition featured business meetings, conferences and workshops, providing businesses with opportunities to establish new partnerships and explore prospects in a more integrated African market. Organisations such as CEMAC, along with several stakeholders, supported this drive to strengthen intra-African trade and enhance the

The 17th Edition Focuses on Trade Facilitation in the AfCFTA Area



Cutting of the symbolic ribbon by Mr. Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, Minister of Trade

competitiveness of local businesses. Stakeholders showcased their know-how in agriculture, agro-industry, textiles, handicrafts and services.

Delegations drawn from several countries in Central and West Africa expressed the ambition to establish FOTRAC as a major economic event in the sub-region. The Cameroon National Shippers'

Council (**CNSC**) hosted several local SMEs specialised in the processing of local products at its exhibition stand, helping to promote **"Made in Cameroon"** products. As a participant, the CNSC also delivered a presentation on the theme: **"Streamlining Cross-Border Trade: A Driver of African SME Competitiveness in the AfCFTA Market"**.

Consultation

CNSC Receives CAMINA JINDAL Officials



CNSC's General Manager poses with the CAMINA delegation

CAMINA S.A presents the Ngovayang iron ore exploitation project to CNSC's General Manager.

On Monday, 13 July 2026, the General Manager of the

Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**), **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, received a delegation from the Cameroon Mining Action (**CAMINA S.A**), a subsidiary of the Indian multinational JINDAL Steel &

Power, at CNSC's head office in Bonanjo. The delegation was led by **Mr. Anath Chatterjee**, Project Director at CAMINA S.A.

The delegation came to present their activities, particularly the Ngovayang iron ore mining project, located in Melombo, Bipindi, in the South Region of Cameroon. The working session was part of efforts to strengthen cooperation ties between the CNSC and CAMINA S.A.

JINDAL Steel & Power is an Indian multinational company specialised in mining and metallurgy present in six African countries, including Cameroon, where it has been operating for 16 years now. The meeting confirms CNSC's commitment to remain a strategic partner in facilitating foreign trade operations across all sectors.