

AfCFTA Insurance Implementation Framework

Building pathways towards an integrated African insurance market

AIO Conference | June 2026



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Overview of the intervention

02

Introduction: background context

AfCFTA creates a major opportunity for a more integrated African insurance market



Intra-African trade remains low¹

- African economies remain more connected globally than regionally.
- Intra-African trade accounts for only 17% of total African trade.
- Regional fragmentation constrains growth and scale



AfCFTA aims to deepen continental integration²

- 54 countries – signed the AfCFTA agreement
- Connects 1.35 billion people across Africa
- Represents a combined GDP of US\$3.4 trillion
- Supports trade, regional value chains, and market integration



Insurance has a key role to play

- Cross-border trade increases demand for risk protection
- Regional value chains require regional insurance solutions
- Insurance can boost trade, enable investment, and infrastructure development

Problem statement

Africa's insurance landscape remains fragmented despite growing momentum toward continental integration



Integration momentum is growing

- AfCFTA is advancing services liberalisation, including financial services
- Discussions on regulatory cooperation and mutual recognition are emerging
- Cross-border trade and regional value chains are expanding



However, insurance markets remain fragmented

- Different regulatory and licensing frameworks across countries
- Restrictions on cross-border operations
- Limited supervisory coordination
- Complex treatment of local risks and assets

Challenge: No clear implementation pathway exists

- Limited alignment between regulators and industry stakeholders
- Insurance priorities are not yet fully operationalised within AfCFTA processes
- Need for practical and phased implementation approaches

Aims and objectives of the intervention

Moving from evidence, to coordination, to implementation

The intervention aims to support the development of a continental insurance market under AfCFTA by defining an implementation framework that **enables market access, regulatory cooperation and industry coordination.**

Objectives:

1

Build the evidence base

Understand the current state of African insurance & reinsurance market integration



2

Develop a collaboration agenda

Clarify how industry, regulators and AfCFTA-related institutions can coordinate.



3

Design the implementation framework

Set out practical pathways for market access, regulatory cooperation and phased harmonisation.

Key questions shaping the intervention

These questions will guide the research including stakeholder engagement and development of the implementation framework



AfCFTA policy and legal framework

How can the AfCFTA framework enable cross-border insurance markets?



Regulatory environment for insurance

Do current regulatory systems enable cross-border insurance operations?



Industry readiness and market structure

Is the insurance industry positioned to benefit from AfCFTA integration?



Institutional coordination

Are the right coordination mechanisms in place to support implementation?

Summary of emerging barriers and opportunities

Initial research points to several constraints to cross-border insurance integration, but also practical pathways that could be explored through the AfCFTA.

Barriers limiting integration	Opportunities to reduce friction under the AfCFTA
Fragmented national regulatory frameworks	Mutual recognition and regulatory cooperation
Licensing and local establishment requirements	Market access and national treatment commitments
Solvency, compliance and reporting differences	Digital trade, e-KYC and payments infrastructure
Local ownership, residency and exchange control constraints	Reinsurance as a possible early integration pathway

These issues will be unpacked in more detail during the working group, where stakeholders will help test **which barriers matter most** and which **pathways are most practical**.



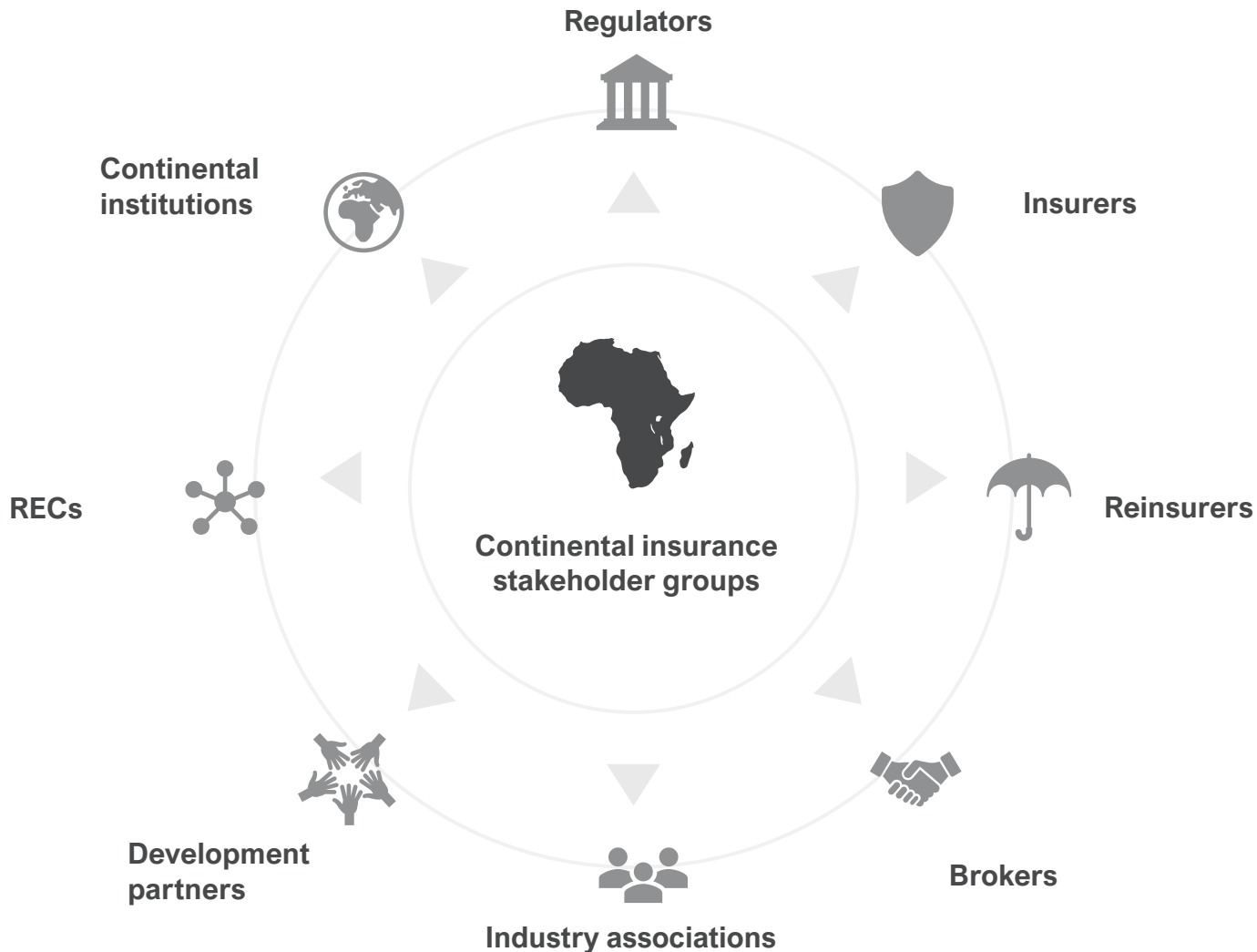
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**Why stakeholder
participation matters**

Stakeholder involvement and collaboration is crucial

The intervention is ecosystem-driven, supported by a Steering Committee that brings together AfCFTA representation and sector associations for regulators and industry.



Why stakeholder participation matters

- 1 Cross-border insurance integration requires **coordination** across multiple institutions and markets
- 2 Practical industry **experience** is essential for identifying implementation barriers and opportunities
- 3 Existing regional initiatives & regulatory approaches provide important **lessons**
- 4 The intervention seeks to support **alignment, dialogue** & practical **implementation** pathways.

Stakeholder consultation session



16h30 – 18h00

As part of the stakeholder engagement process, we will host a consultation session with invited participants to explore how the AfCFTA can support the insurance sector and discuss emerging findings from the intervention.

While this is a closed-door session, interested stakeholders are welcome to reach out to David Mueller to request access:

david.mueller@undp.org

Thank you

About Cenfri

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