



MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTH AFRICA TO HOST THE 9TH SACU SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT IN CAPE TOWN

South Africa will host the 9th SACU Summit of Heads of State or Government on 26 June 2026 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre 2 (CTICC 2) in Cape Town.

The Summit will bring together the Heads of State or Government and representatives of the five SACU Member States, namely the Republic of Botswana, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa, to deliberate on key issues affecting regional economic integration, industrial development and trade cooperation.

As the world's oldest functioning customs union, SACU continues to play a critical role in promoting regional integration, facilitating trade, supporting industrial development and strengthening economic cooperation among its Member States. The Summit serves as SACU's highest decision-making institution, providing strategic and political direction to the organisation and overseeing the implementation of its programmes and priorities.

The 9th SACU Summit is expected to consider several strategic matters aimed at advancing regional economic development and integration. Among the key items on the agenda will be an update from the SACU Council of Ministers on the implementation and mid-term review of the SACU Strategic Plan (2022–2027), reflections on emerging global developments and their impact on SACU economies, as well as a report on the re-imagined SACU and its future direction.

The Summit will also provide an opportunity for Member States to assess progress in areas such as industrialisation, regional value chains, customs modernisation, trade facilitation, investment promotion and opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Chairperson of the SACU Senior Trade Officials, Ms Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter, says the Summit presents an important opportunity for Member States to strengthen regional cooperation and accelerate economic transformation across Southern Africa.

"The SACU Summit provides a strategic platform for Member States to deepen regional integration, strengthen industrial cooperation and advance practical initiatives that support economic growth, job creation and shared prosperity across our region," says Mlumbi-Peter.

She adds that SACU's future growth would increasingly depend on its ability to move beyond traditional trade arrangements towards greater productive capacity and industrial collaboration.

"We are working towards a more industrialised and competitive SACU that leverages regional value chains, supports manufacturing development and creates opportunities for businesses and citizens across all Member States. Through closer cooperation, we can unlock new opportunities in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals beneficiation and emerging green industries," she says.

Mlumbi-Peter further notes that SACU remains an important building block for broader African economic integration.

"The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area presents significant opportunities for SACU Member States. By strengthening regional value chains and improving trade facilitation, we can position our region to compete more effectively in continental and global markets," she says.

The Summit will be preceded by a series of technical, administrative and ministerial meetings from 18 to 24 June 2026, which will consider progress made in implementing SACU programmes and priorities and prepare recommendations for consideration by Heads of State or Government.

South Africa looks forward to welcoming the Heads of State and Government of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia, together with representatives of regional institutions and development partners, to Cape Town for this important gathering.

A communiqué outlining the outcomes and decisions of the Summit will be issued at the conclusion of proceedings on 26 June 2026.

1. The following Meetings of the SACU Institutions will precede the Summit as follow:

- (a) Commissioners General: 18 June 2026;

- (b) Trade Facilitation Technical Committee of Senior Officials: 19 June 2026;
- (c) Meeting of the SACU Senior Trade Officials: 20 June 2026;
- (d) Meeting of the SACU Senior Finance Officials: 20 June 2026;
- (e) SACU Risk Management Conference: 21 June 2026;
- (f) 82nd Meeting Finance, Risk and Audit Committee; 21 June 2026;
- (g) 80th Meeting of the SACU Commission: 22 June 2026;
- (h) 7th SACU Ministerial Retreat; 24 June 2026
- (i) 56th Meeting of the SACU Council of Ministers: 24 June 2026; and
- (j) 9th Summit of the SACU Heads of State or Government: 26 June 2026.

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