

**Hearing on “Understanding the African Continental Free Trade Area and How the
U.S. Can Promote its Success”**

U.S. House of Representatives

House Foreign Affairs Committees

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights

Ambassador Erastus Mwencha (Mwhen-cha)

Starting as one of the first employees at the then Preferential Trade Area (PTA), Amb. Mwencha went on to serve as the Secretary-General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). In that role, he launched Africa’s first free trade area and the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI), a multilateral investment guarantee agency. After COMESA, Amb. Mwencha was elected Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission and was 'architect' of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Since leaving the African Union, he now concurrently serves as Chairman of Equity Bank and TradeMark East Africa.