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For our part as Africans, even as we seek a deeper more beneficial role in the global economy, **boosting regional integration is a priority**. We know that increasing trade between ourselves will boost our economic growth, and create jobs for our youth.

The building blocks for this integration are the regional economic groupings such as the **East African Community**. These blocks will eventually give way to larger groupings such as the African Continental Free Trade Area.

This process is complementary to our engagement with the WTO which supports domestic economic and trade reforms, development of multilateral trade rules, greater market access and investment, regulatory cooperation, and good governance.

The slow progress in concluding the **Doha Round** has given impetus to a multiplicity of mega free trade agreements.

This does not augur well for an open and transparent, all inclusive, and rule based **Multilateral Trading System**.