



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting

## Macroeconomic Policy, Productive Capacity and Growth in Africa

24-25 November 2008  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# Call for Papers

There has been a noticeable improvement recently in socio-economic performance in Africa, though variations still exist across countries. This has, however, been due mainly to increases in global commodity prices and opening up of some of the export markets in developed countries. Such growth needs to be sustained in order to make meaningful impact on poverty, structural weaknesses and human and institutional capacities in Africa.

The experience of other developing countries has shown that the success of efforts to improve productive capacities to ensure sustained growth and benefits from globalization is critically dependent on overcoming structural impediments and supply-side constraints, as well as horizontal and vertical diversification of exports. Strengthening productive capacities in African countries will contribute to enhancing human capital and wealth creation, which in turn will reduce poverty and increase employment opportunities. It will also enable them to utilize the trading opportunities arising from multilateral and regional trade liberalization.

Some of the factors identified as being critical to stimulating productive capacities in Africa include stable macroeconomic conditions, a conducive legal and regulatory environment, and adequate physical and social infrastructure. These factors are critical for reducing transactions costs, increasing the productivity of factors of production, reducing bottlenecks in the production process and opening up new investment opportunities, especially for small and medium scale enterprises in Africa. However, existing research on productive capacity development in developed countries is scanty and has focused mainly on limited aspects of the complex factors affecting the continent's productive capacity.

Against this background, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is organizing an ***Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on Macroeconomic Policy, Productive Capacity and Growth in Africa*** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24-25 November 2008. The main aim of this meeting is to provide a platform for the discussion of various dimensions of productive capacity development in Africa. The meeting also aims to facilitate exchange of opinion as well as experiences among experts from Africa and the rest of the world on policies and strategies to promote productive capacities on the continent in the context of national development plans and strategies. These include macroeconomic, institutional and sectoral policies.

## Call for Papers

UNECA welcomes papers for presentation to the meeting from academics, researchers, policymakers and development practitioners in the following areas identified as critical for the design and implementation of effective strategies and policies to promote productive capacities in Africa.

1. Macroeconomic policies, including fiscal, exchange rate and financial policies specifically targeted to promote productive capacity in African countries.
2. Sectoral policies, including industrial, trade and agricultural policies.
3. Infrastructure and human capital development strategies.
4. Institutions, including the business environment and private sector development policies affecting productive capacity development.
5. Regional market integration and aid policies aimed at enhancing productive capacity and competitiveness of specific sectors or commodities.

### Submission procedures and deadlines

Interested contributors are requested to submit a 3-4 page abstract of the proposed paper in English (including main research question, methodology and data, preliminary results and policy conclusions) together with a short CV (including their full contact address) and preferably the full paper by email to [adhoc-mas@uneca.org](mailto:adhoc-mas@uneca.org) (cc to: [rdesta@uneca.org](mailto:rdesta@uneca.org)) before **August 31, 2008**.

The authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by mid September and completed papers should be submitted by October 30, 2008. The organizers will review both abstracts and final papers. The first page of the paper should include: i) title of paper; ii) author(s)' name and affiliation; iii) 100 word abstract and keywords; iv) contact information (name and e-mail address) of author for correspondence.

### Funding

There is no conference fee. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered for selected conference participants subject to UN procedures. Preference will be given to funding participants from African countries. Authors of accepted papers who are not supported by UNECA are encouraged to seek funding from other sources.

### Contacts

For further information on the meeting, please contact:

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Please copy all correspondences to Ms. Rahel Desta (E-mail address: [rdesta@uneca.org](mailto:rdesta@uneca.org); Phone +251-11-544 5564).

For updates see:

[http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_programmes/trade\\_and\\_regional\\_integration/default.htm](http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/trade_and_regional_integration/default.htm)