



African Economic Conference 2023

Imperatives for sustainable industrial development in Africa

**Addis Ababa
16–18 November 2023**

Draft programme of work



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<i>Time¹</i>	<i>Description</i>
8.30–9.30 a.m.	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <p>Master of ceremonies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tania Habimana, CNBC <p>Opening video (5 minutes)</p> <p>Welcome address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Industry, Ethiopia, Melaku Alebel (5 minutes) <p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Regional Service Centre, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Matthias Naab (7 minutes) • Chief Economist and Vice-President, African Development Bank (AfDB), Kevin Urama, (7 minutes) • Deputy to the Director General, Managing Director, Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations, and Director General’s Special Representative for Africa, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Fatou Haidara (online) (7 minutes) • Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Claver Gatete (7 minutes) <p>Official opening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President of Ethiopia, Sahle-Work Zewde <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Alexandre Kopoin • National Economist, UNDP, Benson Kimani • Research Fellow, ECA, Queen Esther Oye
9.30–10.30 a.m.	<p>Plenary session 1</p> <p>High-level development dialogue: how could Africa leverage the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area to spur sustainable inclusive industrialization? (session organized by ECA, with support from AfDB and UNDP)</p> <p>The aim of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area is to unite 54 diverse economies, creating a single market for 1.5 billion people in Africa. To ensure that industrialization is successful and inclusive, several important areas need attention. In the context of the Agreement, it is imperative to prioritize equitable market access, reduce trade barriers and promote fair competition. Infrastructure development is critical, with investment in transport, energy and digital connectivity</p>

¹ All times listed are UTC+3 (Ethiopian time).

	<p>necessary for efficient trade. Simplified customs procedures, reduced bureaucracy and improved logistics are essential for trade facilitation. Enhancing value addition, enforcing quality standards and developing regional value chains for collaboration among neighbouring countries can boost African product competitiveness. Attracting domestic and foreign investment that supports industrialization, innovation and technology transfer is vital. In addition, policy coordination at the national, subregional and continental levels is crucial to avoid conflicting regulations. A strategic focus on those areas and cooperation can unlock the potential of the Agreement for sustainable industrialization, contributing to long-term economic growth in Africa.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Stephen Karingi <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Industry, Ethiopia, Melaku Alebel • Coordinator, AfCFTA Implementation via National Committees, AfCFTA secretariat, Million Habte • Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy • Director, Regional Service Centre, UNDP, Matthias Naab • Chief Economist and Vice-President, AfDB, Kevin Urama <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Alexandre Kopoin • Economics Adviser, UNDP, Tony Muhumuza • Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Souleymane Abdallah
<p>10.30–10.45 a.m.</p>	<p>Break and press conference</p>
<p>10.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Research session 1 Financing industrialization in Africa (session organized by ECA)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Adam Elhiraika <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Douglas Kigabo Bitonda <p>Paper 1: Impact of EBID’s interventions on ECOWAS member States’ industrialization, by Pagnamam George Yekpa and others</p>

	<p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Subregional Office for West Africa, ECA, Mamoudou Sebegou <p>Paper 2: Green finance, green innovation and industrial development in Africa, by Tii Nchofoung and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Sidzanbnoma Nadia Denise Ouedraogo <p>Paper 3: Industrialization, productive capacity and the endogeneity of fiscal space, by Jacob Assa and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Farzana Sharmin <p>Paper 4: Between energy transition processes and the blocks of the energy balance – which is critical for a sustainable industrialization in sub-Saharan Africa?, by Ikechukwu Asogwa and Chisom Asogwa</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, ECA, Yohannes Hailu <p>Paper 5: Enhancing the innovation capacity of Cameroonian small and medium-sized enterprises for sustainable industrial development: can we rely on Islamic finance?, by Ali Haruna and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Subregional Office for Southern Africa, ECA, Mzwanele Griffiths Mfunwa
<p>12.15–1.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Plenary session 2 Using public-private partnerships to catalyse infrastructure development and innovative financing for industrialization in Africa (session organized by ECA)</p> <p>Industrialization is crucial in addressing poverty and providing employment opportunities for the rapidly growing population of young people in Africa. A significant hurdle to achieving full-scale industrialization, however, is the inadequate infrastructure in the power, water and transport sectors. Underinvestment in infrastructure development affects millions of people, depriving them of essential services, such as clean water, sanitation and electricity, and road networks remain limited.</p> <p>Traditionally, African Governments and international partners, such as China, have been primary investors in infrastructure. Owing to financial constraints, however, there is a growing need to explore public-private partnerships. Such partnerships can harness private investment, technology and expertise, improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of service delivery.</p>

	<p>Nevertheless, only 29 of 54 African countries have established public-private partnership units within their Governments. Increasing that number involves developing the capacity for public-private partnerships, understanding the associated risks and benefits, establishing relevant international standards, and training officials in such partnerships to help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The session will provide an opportunity to discuss the attraction of private sector investment into public-private partnerships, the promotion of collaboration among stakeholders, the identification of necessary legal reforms, capacity-building in such partnerships and the creation of knowledge platforms for sustained support.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Director, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, ECA, Robert Lisinge <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Expert, World Association of Public-Private Partnership Units and Professionals, Eniye Ogbebor • Public-Private Partnership Expert, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Yaoundé II, Arsène Honoré Gidéon Nkama • Energy Expert and retired Power Sector Regulator, Getahun Moges <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Affairs Officer, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, ECA, Mongameli Mehlwana • Economic Affairs Officer, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, ECA, Aconkpanle Placide Colombe
1.15–2 p.m.	Lunch break
2–3.30 p.m.	<p>Research session 2 Sustainable industrialization: the new frontier (session organized by UNDP)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Strategic Adviser, UNDP, Jacob Assa <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Economist, UNDP, Francis Wasswa <p>Paper 6: Carbon dioxide emissions and industrialization in sub-Saharan Africa – fresh insights from recent years, by Fabrice Nguegang</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics Adviser, UNDP, Tony Muhumuza

	<p>Paper 7: “Smart” specialization for enhanced African participation in global value chains, by Flora Yselle (online)</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Economist, UNDP, Étienne de Souza <p>Paper 8: The effect of industrialization on CO₂ emissions in Africa: analysing institutions and financial development as moderating factors, by Santoc Necas Bila</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Economist, UNDP, Fatou Leigh <p>Paper 9: Politiques d’industrialisation et performance des entreprises: une évidence de la politique de protection de l’environnement au Cameroun (Industrialization policies and business performance: evidence from the environmental protection policy of Cameroon), by Andre Dumas and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Economist, UNDP, Christian Boga <p>Paper 10: Développement durable et industrialisation en Afrique – un défi pour les économies ouest-africaines? (Sustainable development and industrialization in Africa – a challenge for West African economies?), by Agbemo Balogan</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Economist, UNDP, Mamadou Bobo Sow
<p>3.30–4.30 p.m.</p>	<p>Plenary session 3</p> <p>Does Africa have the potential for regional value chains? (session organized by UNDP)</p> <p>The development promise of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area will be fulfilled when trade policy translates into booming industrial action. The winning countries will be those that are well positioned for production in niche industrial sectors. With the emergence of trade in parts, immense opportunities lie in regional value chains as a pillar for the industrial revolution on the continent. Such value chains enable countries to combine their comparative and competitive advantages to participate in industries from which they would likely be excluded if they relied entirely on their own capabilities.</p> <p>Regional value chains are praised for their ability to incorporate all company sizes – not least small and medium-sized enterprises – that can contribute to any part of the production process. Such an approach extends beyond goods, to trade in services, in which transport, logistics, branding and even digital services are increasingly the glue that holds manufacturing together.</p> <p>With reference to the seminal 2021 publication, <i>African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Futures Report 2021: Which Value Chains for a Made in Africa Revolution?</i>, those issues will be tackled during the</p>

	<p>session.² Leading practitioners in the area will help to answer the crucial question of how to frame and accelerate African industrialization at a time of great global complexity.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy Adviser, UNDP, Joy Kategekwa <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Vivo Activewear, Wandia Gichuru (online) • Associate Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Nellie Mutemeri (online) • Professor of Economics, University of Ibadan, Olawale Ogunkola • Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Trade and Market Access – Carakana, Linda Chepkwony <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, UNDP, Natalia Kanos
4.30–4.45 p.m.	Break
4.45-6.15 p.m.	<p>Research session 3 Leveraging the energy transition for industrialization in Africa (session organized by AfDB)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Governance and Economic Reforms, and Officer-in-Charge, Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research Department, AfDB, Abdoulaye Coulibaly <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Nkoanyane Sebutsoe <p>Paper 11: Energy development and industrialization: evidence from Africa, by Admasu Asfaw</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Adeleke Salami <p>Paper 12: Delivering double wins – how can Africa deliver industrialization and a clean energy transition?, by Regean Mugume and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Amadou Boly <p>Paper 13: Energy efficiency, renewable energy, industry share and climate mitigation – short- and long-run evidence from sub-Saharan African countries, by Anselme Houssigbe and others</p>

² Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area and UNDP, *African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Futures Report 2021 – Which Value Chains for a Made in Africa Revolution?* (2021).

	<p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Seedwell Hove <p>Paper 14: Advancing sustainable industrial development in Africa: the role of institutional quality and renewable energy, by Joshua Afolabi and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Alexandre Kopoin <p>Paper 15: Can mobile money adoption affect environmental sustainability in an energy transition context?, by Yacouba Coulibaly</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Nkoanyane Sebutsoe
<p>6.15–7.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Special event A</p> <p>Leveraging strategic foresight for agile, robust and forward-looking sustainable industrial development in Africa (event organized by ECA)</p> <p>In a rapidly evolving global landscape marked by megatrends in geopolitics, technology, health, security and the environment, Africa stands at the nexus of unprecedented challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>The disruptive forces of digital transformation and climate change are reshaping the development trajectory of the continent, demanding a strategic and forward-thinking approach to planning for the future. The special event presents an opportunity to explore the preliminary reflection undertaken by ECA on the preparation for the Summit of the Future, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024. The Summit is aimed at forging a new global consensus on what the future should look like, and what can be done today to secure it.</p> <p>The following fundamental questions will be discussed:</p> <p>(a) What do African countries need to do to align their policies with long-term sustainability goals, make strategic investments and enact regulatory frameworks that promote environmentally responsible and socially inclusive industrialization?</p> <p>(b) What are the key drivers of change in the workforce landscape, and how can capacity-building initiatives effectively prepare individuals, governments and industries for those changes?</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, ECA, Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Minister for Planning, Senegal, Ibrahima Sall • Director General, National Planning Commission, Malawi, Thomas Munthali • Representative, University of Johannesburg, and Department of Science and Technology and National Research Foundation South

	<p>African Research Chair in Industrial Development, Fiona Tregenna (online)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Nasarawa State University, Hauwa Ibrahim <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Training and Research, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, ECA, Bakary Dosso
7.30–8.30 p.m.	Cocktail reception

8.30–9.30 a.m.

Plenary session 4

Facing the fourth industrial revolution: which way for Africa? (session organized by UNDP, with support from AfDB and ECA)

The ongoing fourth industrial revolution is ushering in transformative innovations, such as robots, artificial intelligence, three-dimensional printing and big data analytics, on a global level. They are reshaping production processes and the future of work. The innovations challenge the African industrialization pathway and call for a re-evaluation of strategies in the face of global climate change.

The session is focused on exploring the critical issues for African countries, including adapting industrial development strategies in the light of geopolitical shifts triggered by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the war in Ukraine and their impact on such areas as trade dependence and capital repatriation.

The main topics to be discussed include: skills development in a competitive labour market; crafting industrialization strategies during technological upheavals; addressing the future of work and its impact on low-skilled jobs and inequality; formulating policies to tackle financial, economic and social challenges; assessing African capacity for the fourth industrial revolution; identifying opportunities for African-led innovation; devising new arrangements for technology transfer; seeking partnerships in an innovation-driven world; reconciling labour-based industrialization with technology-heavy production; and bridging the gap between practice, policy and regulation in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

Moderator:

- Chief Economist, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP, Raymond Gilpin

Panellists:

- Chief Executive Officer and Founder, OrbitHealth.co and Orbit Innovation Hub, Pazon Cherinet
- Chief Digital Officer, Sanlam, Natalie Jabangwe
- Director, Chief Economist and Head of Research and Strategy, Africa Finance Corporation, Rita Babihuga-Nsanze
- Executive Vice-President, African Center for Economic Transformation, Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi
- Professor Emeritus of History, University of Rochester, Joseph Inikori

Rapporteurs:

- Senior Strategic Adviser, UNDP, Jacob Assa
- Research Fellow, ECA, Malang Bojang

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Oluwatoba James Omotilewa
<p>9.30–11 a.m.</p>	<p>Research session 4 African Continental Free Trade Area and industrialization in Africa (session organized by ECA)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief, Economic Governance and Public Finance Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Gamal Eltaib Ibrahim <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Jason McCormack <p>Paper 16: The European Green Deal (EGD) and its implication for African trade, by Seutame Maiméle</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, African Trade Policy Centre, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Elena Antoni <p>Paper 17: Greening the African Continental Free Trade Area, by Simon Mevel and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, ECA, Louis Mitondo Lubango <p>Paper 18: Does the Belt and Road Initiative boost industrialization? Empirical evidence from Africa, by Abas Omar</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, ECA, Rodgers Mukwaya <p>Paper 19: Effects of trade in services on industrialization in sub-Saharan Africa, by Bouraima Sawadogo</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, Market Institutions Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Caitlyn Carrico <p>Paper 20: La zone de libre-échange continentale africaine va-t-elle accélérer l'industrialisation en Afrique centrale? (Will the African Continental Free Trade Area accelerate industrialization in Central Africa?), by Pousseni Bakouan</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA, Souleymane Abdallah
<p>11–11.15 a.m.</p>	<p>Break</p>

11.15 a.m.–12.15 p.m.

Plenary session 5

Fostering African industrialization through linkages of small and medium-sized enterprises with global value chains (session organized by AfDB)

Small and medium-sized enterprises are vital to the African private sector. Despite their potential to stimulate economic growth, entrepreneurship and industrial development, African small and medium-sized enterprises have not fully integrated into global value chains. Unlike many Asian economies, African countries primarily rely on the exportation of raw materials.

In 2021, most African exports to the European Union were primary goods, and imports from Europe consisted mainly of manufactured products. The integration of African small and medium-sized enterprises into global value chains has become increasingly important in modern international trade. To achieve that integration, African small and medium-sized enterprises must develop diverse competitive advantages that meet international standards.

Important questions have arisen in relation to the ways in which African small and medium-sized enterprises, which are predominantly focused on primary goods, can effectively participate in global value chains. Discussion is required regarding the mechanisms for improving the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises through their integration into global value chains and the factors that enable or hinder their participation.

Moderator:

- Executive Director, East Africa constituency, AfDB, Jonathan Nzayikorera

Panellists:

- Principal Economist, Economic and Market Research Department, International Finance Corporation, Marcio Cruz
- Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, BUA Cement, Yusuf Binji
- Principal Research Fellow and Director of International Economic Development Group, Overseas Development Institute, Dirk Willem te Velde (online)
- Representative and Director, Regional Office Hub in Ethiopia, and Special Representative to the African Union, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò
- Senior Special Adviser to the President, AfDB, Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka (online)

Rapporteur:

- Representative, AfDB, John Herbert Ainembabazi

12.15–1.15 p.m.

Plenary session 6

Unlocking regional value chains and industrialization in the agroprocessing sector in Africa (session organized by ECA)

Agriculture and agroprocessing have the potential to drive growth in African manufacturing industries, in particular with the growing importance of regional and global supply chains. In such countries as Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda, the food and beverages segments of the manufacturing sector are becoming dominant. African Governments are actively promoting the growth of agroprocessing and manufacturing, which is creating substantial job opportunities.

The creation of regional value chains is another avenue for spurring African industrialization. The complexity and volume of technical regulations, however, and the variations in certification, testing and inspection practices across African countries pose challenges and can lead to non-tariff barriers. Although some progress has been made at the level of regional economic communities to harmonize quality standards, coordination efforts have been lacking, which can potentially hinder the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Furthermore, the applicability of the cumulative principle within the rules of origin of the Agreement is falling short. Cumulation allows countries to consider materials from partner countries as originating within the same trade bloc, promoting production sharing.

During the session, several important topics will be addressed, including the role of technical regulations in unlocking agroprocessing manufacturing and regional value chains; strategies to address non-tariff barriers in food trade; barriers to harnessing the provisions of the rules of origin for regional value chains and industrialization; and the ways in which trade associations and business councils can collaborate with Governments and regional economic communities to create an enabling environment for the development of regional value chains.

Moderator:

- Chief of Inclusive Industrialisation Section, Subregional Office for Southern Africa, ECA, Olayinka Lawal Bandele

Panellists:

- Chief of Party, Trade Agriculture Safely and Efficiently in East Africa Project, United States Department of Agriculture, Martha Byanyima
- Director, Standards Quality Infrastructure and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Trademark East Africa, Andrew Edewa
- Chief Executive Officer and Chief Economic Strategist, Nextnomics, Temitope Oshikoya
- Professor in Practice and Strategic Director, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, London School of Economics and Political Science, David Luke

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Special Assistant to the Director General and Chief Executive Officer, Raw Materials Research and Development Council, Nigeria, Kemjika Benaiah Ajoku <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for Southern Africa, ECA, Talumba Ireen Chilipaine
1.15–2 p.m.	Lunch break
2–3.30 p.m.	<p>Research session 5 Human capital development for industrialization in Africa (session organized by UNDP)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Strategic Adviser, UNDP, El Hadji Fall <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Analyst, UNDP, Abdoulie Janneh <p>Paper 21: Foreign direct investment and real sector growth in Africa – the dynamic panel threshold effects of human capital development, by Michael Efah Asamoah</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Economist, UNDP, Alex Warren-Rodriguez <p>Paper 22: Human capital development, innovation and industrial performance in sub-Saharan Africa, by Oluyemi Adeosun and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Economist, UNDP, Fatmata Sesay <p>Paper 23: Effects of the political empowerment of women on structural transformation in sub-Saharan Africa, by Alex Iroume and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Economist, UNDP, Ligane Sene <p>Paper 24: Structural change and the national initiative for human development in Morocco – subnational insights, by Akim Almouksit and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Economist, UNDP, Lorenzo Mancini <p>Paper 25: Enhancing industrial productivity and competitiveness in Africa: a focus on technological innovation and human capital development, by Segun Awode and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Economist, UNDP, Moctar Seydou

<p>3.30–4.30 p.m.</p>	<p>Plenary session 7 Resolving the energy puzzle for African industrialization (session organized by UNDP)</p> <p>Africa possesses significant renewable energy potential, including abundant solar, hydroelectric, wind and geothermal resources. In addition, the continent has substantial reserves of natural gas, oil and critical metals that are essential for renewable energy systems. Despite those resources, Africa still struggles to provide electricity access to around 600 million people and affordable energy to its industries. Reliable energy access is vital for economic development, industrialization, productivity and human development, and is the subject of one of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The session is aimed at exploring the role of green energy in addressing African energy challenges while fostering industrialization and combating climate change. The following essential questions will be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) How can Africa leverage local renewable energy sources to meet growing industrial energy demands? (b) Why have global commitments to finance energy access in Africa been slow to materialize? (c) How can partnerships be cultivated for green energy investment, technology transfer and the development of local manufacturing capacity? <p>The discussion will be focused on re-evaluating the current green transition model, embracing innovative renewable energy business models, engaging small and medium-sized enterprises and enhancing energy efficiency. Furthermore, the session will include an opportunity to explore the strategies for advancing low-carbon and renewable energy generation and distribution, in particular mini-grids, with a strong emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises and industry participation, and the mobilization of partnerships and resources to accelerate the African sustainable energy transformation.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident Representative, UNDP in Rwanda, Maxwell Gomera <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Partner, EED Advisory, Murefu Barasa • Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution, Landry Signé (online) • Interim Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium, Dominique Njinkeu • Principal Policy Analyst, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Moses Njenga <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Analyst, UNDP, Michael Mbate
<p>4.30–4.45 p.m.</p>	<p>Break</p>

<p>4.45–6.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Research session 6 Industrialization and global value chain integration in Africa (session organized by AfDB)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer-in-Charge and Manager, Microeconomic, Institutional and Development Impact Division, Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research Department, AfDB, Fadel Jaoui <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Charles Nyuykonge <p>Paper 26: Global value chains and industrialization in Africa, by Bernard Nguekeng</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Dorsaf Labidi Zangar <p>Paper 27: Effets des chaînes de valeurs mondiales sur la croissance inclusive en Afrique Sub-saharienne (Effects of global value chains on inclusive growth in sub-Saharan Africa), by Bruno Emmanuel Ongo and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Charles Nyuykonge <p>Paper 28: Does global value chain participation promote sustainable industrialization in Africa? A cross-country analysis using a dynamic model approach, by Nneka Esther Osadolor and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Paul Mpuga <p>Paper 29: Employment and innovation effects of global value chain participation in Nigeria, by Oluwafemi Adebola and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Zerihun Admit Wondifraw <p>Paper 30: Structural transformation in Morocco – rethinking sectoral policies, by Wissal Sahel and others</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, John Herbert Ainembabazi
<p>6.15–7.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Special event B Expanding space for women in industry in Africa (event organized by UNDP)</p> <p>As Africa embarks on its industrialization journey, inclusivity must be paramount. It is imperative that women’s participation take centre stage to secure inclusive and sustainable development outcomes. Women are actively involved in critical sectors, such as agriculture, food processing,</p>

	<p>cosmetics, leather, textiles, tourism, hospitality and professional services, across the continent.</p> <p>The role of gender in industrial policy in Africa is evolving. African countries are increasingly recognizing the significance of gender-inclusive policies to harness the full potential of their economies. There is still work to be done, however, to ensure that such policies are effectively implemented and have a tangible impact.</p> <p>Although many women now benefit from the significant progress that has been made, others continue to face barriers and challenges, such as limited access to resources, finance and skills development. Overcoming those hurdles requires targeted strategies, including, potentially, policies that promote gender equality in education and training, access to financing, mentorship programmes and the removal of systemic biases.</p> <p>The session will provide a platform for influential women in the African industrial sector to share their inspiring stories and insights. Their experiences will help to shape a blueprint for women-led industrial policies and action in Africa, providing a road map for a more inclusive and prosperous industrialization process on the continent.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Adviser, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP, El Hadji Fall <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proprietor, Bella Wines Uganda, Prudence Kasibante Ukkonika • Founder, SoleRebels, and Member, African Influencers for Development, UNDP, Bethlehem Tilahun • Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Bet Mama, Awatif Baroud • Head of Department, Trade and Market Access, MaMa Doing Good, Irene Kirimi <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, UNDP, Maria de Fátima Achopa
7.30–9 p.m.	Sponsored dinner

8–9.30 a.m.

Research session 7

Innovation, technology and industrialization in Africa (session organized by AfDB, ECA and UNDP)

Moderator:

- Chief, Development Planning Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Bartholomew Armah

Rapporteurs:

- Representative, AfDB, Oluwatoba James Omotilewa
- Representative, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Gebremedhin Tadesse Gebrezgiher

Paper 31: The interplay between innovation adoption and pricing competitiveness in sub-Saharan Africa, by Andre Dumas Tsambou and others

Discussant:

- Representative, Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division, ECA, Yesuf Awel

Paper 32: Terrorisme et performances des industries manufacturières dans les pays en développement (Terrorism and the performance of manufacturing industries in developing countries), by Charles Zambo

Discussant:

- Representative, AfDB, Oluwatoba James Omotilewa

Paper 33: Stronger together – promoting exports through female-only SME consortia, by Amira Bouzir and others

Discussant:

- Representative, AfDB, Mercellin Ndong-Ntah

Paper 34: Technological capability and industrialization in Africa, by Gideon Ndubusi and others

Discussant:

- Senior Strategic Adviser, UNDP, Jacob Assa

Paper 35: Explaining capacity utilization among firms in Kenya, by Keffa Simiyu

Discussant:

- Senior Economist, UNDP, Ali Zafar

9.30–10.30 a.m.

Plenary session 8

Role of special economic zones in promoting sustainable industrial development in Africa (session organized by AfDB)

Africa is recognized globally as the new growth frontier of the world, owing to its abundant natural resources, youthful population, favourable macroeconomic environment and regional integration efforts, in particular the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. Despite those achievements and its resource wealth, Africa remains the least industrialized region of the world. The burgeoning population of the continent necessitates industrialization, economic transformation through resource value addition, the integration of national processes into global value chains, job creation and poverty reduction.

Special economic zones are pivotal in the continent's quest for sustainable industrial development. They serve as a strategic tool to attract investment, stimulate intraregional and international trade, and help to create an integrated economic space. Such zones in Africa leverage the comparative and competitive advantages of each country, capitalizing on the maturing regional integration landscape across the continent. They foster investment, fuel economic growth and help to address development disparities, aligning with the broader African goals of industrialization and prosperity.

Discussions during the session will be focused on the pivotal role of special economic zones in the drive for industrialization in Africa and their potential to foster sustainable economic growth. Important topics will be explored, including the role of Governments in building investor confidence and ensuring that local economies benefit from investment in special economic zones. There will be an examination of the methods to address the structural constraints that have affected the performance of African special economic zones and the ways in which such zones can help to overcome infrastructure deficits. In addition, participants will analyse the pathways for local industries outside special economic zones to derive benefits from foreign direct investment within those zones.

Moderator:

- Lead Regional Economist for Central Africa and Acting Division Manager for the Southern Africa, East Africa and Nigeria Country Economists, AfDB, Hervé Lohoues

Keynote Speaker:

- **Federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Nigeria,** Doris Uzoka-Anite

Panellists:

- Commissioner for Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, Mining, African Union Commission, Albert Muchanga
- Professor of International Economic Relations, Covenant University, Jonathan Aremu

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Director, Tanger Med Zones, and Secretary-General, Africa Economic Zones Organization, Ahmed Bennis • Chief Executive Officer, Special Economic Zones Authority, Kenya, Kenneth Chelule • Director, Tema Administrative Office, Ghana Free Zones Authority, Patience Agbleze Acorlor <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Dauda Foday Suma
10.30–10.45 a.m.	Break
10.45–11.45 a.m.	<p>Special event C Launch of the report by the African Development Bank on benchmark macroeconomic models for effective policy management in Africa (event organized by AfDB)</p> <p>Macroeconomic modelling is important for policymakers in Africa to contribute effectively to the design, analysis and implementation of evidence-based economic policies. The capacity for such modelling in Africa, however, has remained low. There have been only some improvements, given that countries are still facing numerous challenges.</p> <p>Through the African Development Institute, AfDB undertook a review of various macroeconomic modelling tools used in Africa. The stocktaking exercise was aimed at identifying the existing models, their relevance, given the nature and structure of African economies, their strengths and weaknesses, individual and institutional capacities to operate them, existing gaps and the required models and capacity to develop and operate them.</p> <p>The report includes the significant gaps that have been identified in macroeconomic modelling in Africa, including: human capacity development; the development of advanced macroeconomic modelling tools; macroeconomic software and programming language; the strengthening of data quality; the incorporation of emerging issues into existing macroeconomic models and frameworks; and the enhancement of institutional arrangements, coordination and communication.</p> <p>In that context, the launch event is aimed at: presenting the report and raising awareness on the myriad of macroeconomic models in use in Africa; and highlighting the capacity gaps and the ways in which AfDB and other stakeholders could address them.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director General, Eastern Africa and Country Manager for Ethiopia, AfDB, Abdul Kamara <p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Economist and Vice-President, AfDB, Kevin Urama • Minister for Planning and Development, Ethiopia, Fitsum Aseefa Adela

	<p>Presentation of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer-in-Charge and Director, African Development Institute, and Manager, Policy Management Division, AfDB, Eric Ogunleye <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary and Head of the African Union and ECA Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, African Capacity Building Foundation, Alain Aime Nyamitwe Interim Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium, Dominique Njinkeu Manager, Macroeconomic Policy, Debt Sustainability and Forecasting Division, Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research Department, AfDB, Anthony Simpasa Associate Professor, University of Cape Town, and Senior Economic Adviser, ECA, Abebe Shimeles (Virtual) <p>Unveiling and launch of the report (photo opportunity)</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative, AfDB Nkoanyane Sebutsoe
<p>11.45 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>	<p>Special event D</p> <p>Youth dialogue: leveraging the potential of youth entrepreneurship for sustainable industrialization in Africa – challenges, opportunities and policies (event organized by AfDB, with the support of ECA and UNDP)</p> <p>Entrepreneurship is a critical factor for economic growth and development, given that it is linked with poverty reduction. A growing number of young entrepreneurs play a vital role in creating decent jobs for young Africans. Africa, therefore, urgently needs significant measures to harness the potential of young entrepreneurs for sustainable industrialization. Unfortunately, the young entrepreneurs of the continent face numerous business challenges and are operating far below their potential. Their business activities need more dynamism and stability.</p> <p>A forward-looking perspective will be adopted during the session to explore the potential of youth entrepreneurship for sustainable industrialization in Africa. Young people from various sectors across the continent will explore major challenges, identify opportunities and propose actionable measures that can be considered by Governments and all stakeholders. They will highlight effective policies, real-world success stories and key lessons learned, and make recommendations for strategies and action.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Sales Manager (Cement), Lafarge Africa, and former National President, Junior Chamber International, Nigeria, Olawale Bakare

	<p>Keynote speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Envoy, African Union, Chido Mpemba <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Youth, Libya, Fatalla Elzuni • State Minister for Youth Affairs, Ethiopia, Muna Ahmed • Representative, Addis Ababa University, and Ambassador for Peace and Intercultural Dialogue, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Kenna Amsalu Alemayehu • Marketing Manager, Yummy Delight Foods, and Volunteer, Youth Alliance for Leadership Development in Africa, Esono Jude • Founder and Director, Youth Motion Kenya, Gathige Wa Maina • Honorary Junior Research Fellow, Department of Economics and International Studies, University of Buckingham, Sansy El Hassan Diane <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, Seedwell Hove • Economics Specialist, UNDP, Patrick Kamwendo
1–2 p.m.	Lunch break
2–2.30 p.m.	<p>Presentation of awards</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Adam Elhiraika <p>Presentation of the awards for the best research paper overall and the best research paper by a young researcher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy
2.30–3 p.m.	<p>Closing ceremony</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Adam Elhiraika <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy • Director, Regional Service Centre, UNDP, Matthias Naab • Chief Economist and Vice-President, AfDB, Kevin Urama <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, AfDB, John Herbert Ainembabazi

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representative, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, Gebremedhin Tadesse Gebrezgiher• Representative, UNDP, Maria de Fátima Achopa
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