



AFRICAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2023

Call for Papers

The Imperatives for Sustainable Industrial Development in Africa

16-18 November 2023

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



African Development Bank Group, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Development Programme

Call for Papers



The 2023 African Economic Conference (AEC), jointly organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be held at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 16 to 18 \ November 2023.

Since its inception in 2006, the AEC series has fostered research, expert, and policy dialogue, and the exchange of knowledge on a variety of issues and challenges facing Africa.

The theme of this year's conference is "*The Imperatives for Sustainable Industrial Development in Africa*", with a focus on the following four sub-themes:

- 1. Industrialization and Global Value Chains integration in Africa:** creating regional and linking them into global value chains; how to use special economic zones to promote regional value chains; value addition initiatives and manufacturing; leveraging and upscaling innovative technology; conducive environment and industrial policy; right skilling; boosting intra-African trade and investment;
- 2. Sustainable industrialization as the new frontier:** fostering industrialization that mitigates the impacts of climate change and habitat destruction and promotes efficient use of natural resources; creation of green supply chains for green industry through tackling waste, minimizing emissions, and using renewable energy;
- 3. AfCTA and Africa's Industrialization** – how to develop regional and sub-regional value chains (S/RVCs), and link them into global value chains; leveraging comparative advantage to spur diversification; sorting the tariff challenges to promote S/RVCs; supporting regional integration supporting infrastructure for industrialization; ameliorating production and transaction costs caused by poor and inadequate regional infrastructure services (energy, roads, telecommunications, etc.); spurring movement of resources – financial, human and production materials and services.
- 4. Financing Africa's industrialization** – To ensure inclusiveness how to tackle the financing challenges of Africa's small and medium sized industries to bolster sustainable industrial development; how to mobilize finance resources for medium to long-term financing needs of industrialization; mitigating risk perceptions that feed the African premium practice; harnessing Africa's biodiversity to leverage green finances; plugging the gaps in the international financial architecture to increase Africa's access to emerging finance instruments; growing Africa's domestic capital markets;

Policy-oriented research papers that are linked to the overall theme of the conference are of particular interest.

Submission guidelines:

Interested authors should submit their papers to eca-aec2023@un.org by 08 September 2023.

Only full papers addressing the conference theme will be considered for presentation. We encourage the submission of policy- and solution-oriented papers with strong empirical work.

Authors are asked to submit their papers and register according to the following schedule:

Action	Timelines
Deadline for Submission of papers	08 September 2023
Notification of acceptance	03 October 2023
Conference dates	16-18 November 2023

Note: Registration details will be provided shortly.

Young African researchers are especially encouraged to submit their articles. One of the objectives of the AEC series is to provide young African researchers, the opportunity to not only share their work with a broader audience, but also expand their networks.

Best Paper Awards:

A distinguished panel will assess the papers presented and award prizes to the overall best paper and a young author whose work is deemed the best conference paper among peers. The winners will be announced at the closing ceremony.

Sponsorship:

Authors should indicate whether they require support to cover expenses (travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence allowance) associated with their participation at the conference. Only one author per paper accepted for presentation will be eligible for sponsorship. Support is reserved mainly for presenters and young researchers from Africa.

For further information, please read the 2023 African Economic Conference concept note. <https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/aec2023>