



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

DRAFT

Concept Note

Industrialization Policy Webinar Series

on

**“Domestication of regional frameworks on industrialization and
National harmonization of regional strategies and policies to
support industrial development in Southern Africa.”**

Virtual

07 March 2023

1. Background

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Sub regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) is organising the second webinar under an initiative to promote the accelerated implementation of regional and national industrialization policies for inclusive and sustainable development in Southern Africa¹. Industrialization and industrial development through the enhancement of productive capacities, diversification and value addition is key to supporting inclusive and sustainable growth and hence regional member States are creating policy frameworks to support industrial growth. The Webinar series is anchored on the findings and policy recommendations from background studies undertaken by SRO-SA as part of overall support to regional industrialization efforts.

Stakeholders across the region are developing policies and strategies to promote industrial growth and accelerate structural transformation for job creation and the reduction of inequalities. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have articulated the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap and the COMESA Industrialization Policy/Strategy to guide the regional industrialization agenda as an anchor to facilitate the integration of industrial sectors, and intensification of the production of diversified products and trade. In this context, successful implementation of industrialization policies and strategies through domestication of COMESA and SADC industrial policies and Regional Trade Agreements including the African Continental Free Trade Area is critical for sustainable recovery and enhanced regional economic growth and transformation.

The SADC and COMESA frameworks are critical supporting anchors for industrial development. The strategic goals for SADC encompass raising the regional growth rate of real GDP to a minimum of 7 percent a year; increasing the share of manufacturing value added (MVA) in GDP to 30 percent by 2030 and to 40 percent by 2050, including the share of industry-related services; raising the share of medium-and-high-technology production in total MVA to 30 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050; to increase manufactured exports to at least 50 percent of total exports by 2030 from less than 20 percent at present and to increase the share of industrial employment to 40 percent of total employment by 2030. In the case of COMESA, the targets include facilitating the diversification of the manufacturing base and products, increased participation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in value - addition and value-chains and strengthened national and regional capacities for sustainable industrialization by 2026. This can be achieved through accelerated value addition (including regional value chains and/or joint industrial projects) to boost industrial production and structural transformation backed by strong convergence of policies/priorities at both the national and regional levels.

To support the regional industrialization agenda ECA SRO-SA is currently implementing a project on “*Promotion and Implementation of Regional and National Industrialization Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Southern Africa*” and the domestication of regional policy frameworks and harmonization and alignment of national industrial strategies to regional industrial frameworks of SADC and COMESA is one of the thematic areas. The implementation of harmonised regional and national industrialization policies is critical for accelerated inclusive and sustainable regional development. The slow progress by member States to domesticate regional policies and the misalignment of policy priorities at national and regional levels is a major drag to the efforts to grow regional value chains.

¹ Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The background studies on (i) domestication of regional industrialization frameworks; and (ii) on tracking national alignment and harmonization of regional industrialization strategies and policies explored the extent of domestication of the regional industrial frameworks in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They also explored the levels of alignment and harmonization in the three countries as well as the challenges to accelerated domestication. Supporting the domestication and alignment of the national policies to the SADC and COMESA regional industrialisation frameworks in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe is key for value chains development. Informed by the findings of the studies, the three member States have initiated the review of their national industrial policies and strategies, aligning them to the regional frameworks with SRO-SA support. The experiences of the three countries in domesticating the regional frameworks will provide lessons for other member States.

The Webinar on *domestication of regional industrialisation policies and alignment of national policies to the regional frameworks/strategies* will be organized on 7th of March 2023 as a platform to disseminate the recommendations and also widen dialogue on policy harmonization and domestication in support of industrial development. The Webinar will discuss the regional industrialization agenda; elaborate on the state of industrialization in both COMESA and SADC and on supporting industrialization through the domestication and implementation of harmonized strategies and policies. The discussions will interrogate the impediments to domestication and harmonisation and proffer strategies to accelerate the process.

2. Objectives

The overall objectives of the Webinar are to disseminate key policy recommendations from the policy briefs developed from the findings and recommendations of the two studies as well as to provide a platform for member States and other stakeholders to discuss and synthesize on the policy directions for accelerated domestication and harmonisation of national and regional industrialisation strategies as a pathway to sustainable and inclusive industrialisation in the region.

Specifically, the Webinar will,

- i. raise awareness on the regional and national industrialization strategies, policies and other relevant regional development/agreements with a bearing on the industrialization agenda for Southern Africa;
- ii. identify impediments to the domestication of the SADC and COMESA industrialization policies by the regional member States and the barriers to implementation/alignment where domestication has occurred;
- iii. assess the options and provide direction for accelerated regional policy domestication and uptake by member States; and
- iv. enhance the capacity of stakeholders to accelerate regional policy domestication and the implementation of harmonized industrialization strategies and policies.

3. Format

The Webinar will include a 15-minute presentation of the policy briefs on domestication of the regional industrialization policies by member States and alignment/harmonization of national and regional frameworks. This will be followed by presentations and discussant reflections on key areas as follows: -

- (i) The SADC Industrialization policy priorities and initiatives to support domestication and implementation/uptake by member States; and
- (ii) The COMESA Industrialization policy priorities and initiatives to support domestication and implementation/uptake by member States.

The presentations will be 15 minutes each and the nominated discussants will each have five minutes to provide further insights for accelerated regional policy domestication and uptake or alignment at member State level. A 35-minute question and answer session will follow the presentations, moderated by a representative from the Secretariat of the 28th Session of the ICSOE (*tentatively*).

4. Participation

Government representatives from regional member States, representatives of the private sector, MSMEs, Business Membership Organisations, academic and research institutions, women business organizations, youth groups, Civil Society Organisations, the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office, the Secretariats of SADC and COMESA, SADC Business Council, COMESA Business Council, Afreximbank, African Development Bank, Development Bank of Southern Africa and the United Nations family including UNECA will be invited to the webinar.

Language: The Webinar will be conducted in English.

5. Date and Venue

The Webinar will be held virtually on 7th March 2023.

6. Expected Outputs

The expected Outputs of the Webinar will include:

- i. shared experiences on domestication and harmonisation of industrialisation policies;
- ii. recommendations on strategies to accelerate the process domestication and harmonisation of industrialisation policies in the region; and
- iii. a report of the Webinar.

7. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Webinar will include:

- i. increased awareness on the regional industrialization agenda;
- ii. enhanced understanding of the status, challenges and opportunities for accelerated domestication of regional industrialisation policies and harmonisation of national policies to regional frameworks and priorities;
- iii. increased appreciation/uptake of the recommendations and policy directions on domestication of regional industrialisation policies and alignment of national policies to the regional frameworks; and
- iv. improved national capacities for accelerated domestication of regional industrialisation policies and harmonisation of national policies to regional frameworks and priorities.

8. Contact Details

Confirmation of participation and the request for additional information and all other communication on the Webinar should be addressed to:

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