



# ICSOE 2021

Twenty-seventh session of the Intergovernmental  
Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for Southern Africa

*Building back better from COVID-19 in Southern Africa:  
fostering commodity-based industrialization, manufacturing  
and regional value chains*

13 and 14 October 2021

**Wednesday October 13, 2021.**

**14:30-15:15: Agenda item 4.**

Presentation of the Thematic Report on:

*Building back better from COVID-19 in Southern Africa:*

*Fostering commodity-based industrialization, manufacturing and regional value-chains –*

ECA SRO-SA

**Presenter:** Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic affairs officer, ECA SRO-SA.

**Discussant:** Trudi Hartzenberg, TRALAC.

Q&A (15 mins)

**Wednesday October 13, 2021.**

**15:15-17:30: Agenda item 5.**

High-level Panel Discussion on:

*Building back better from COVID-19 in Southern Africa: Fostering commodity-based industrialization, manufacturing and regional value-chains.*

**Moderator:** Mr. Chauncy Simkawa, Secretary to Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Malawi.

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Jorge Jairoce, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Mozambique.
2. Mrs. Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman-Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mauritius.
3. Ms. Nardos Bekele- Thomas, UN Resident Coordinator, South Africa.
4. Dr. Thomas Munthali, Director General, National Planning Commission, Malawi.
5. Mr. Peter Varndell, CEO, SADC Business Council.
6. Mr. Khaled El-Mekwad, Representative and Head of Regional Office in South Africa, UNIDO.

***List of guiding questions/thematic areas for discussion:***

1. What are the main reasons behind the persistent reliance on primary commodity exports, under-industrialization and lack of manufacturing development in Southern Africa?
2. How can we account and explain the lack of progress in addressing critical constraints to inclusive industrialization and regional value chains development, including those linked to entrepreneurship, micro, small and medium scale enterprises, competitiveness of local industry, application of science, technology and innovation by enterprises, and lack of upgrading in value-chains?
3. What are a few of the implications of Covid-19 on inclusive industrialization, manufacturing and regional value chain development in Southern Africa? What could be new strategic options?
4. What are the main reasons for the inadequate implementation of national and regional industrialisation strategies and what are the main options to accelerate implementation in the context of the AfCFTA?
5. What are the main success stories in industrialization, manufacturing and regional value chains development in the region? And what can be learnt from them?

**Thursday October 14, 2021.**

**09:00-11:30: Agenda item 6.**

High Level Panel Discussion on:

*“New sources of competitiveness in Southern Africa’s inclusive and sustainable industrialization strategies: Promoting Made in Southern Africa in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area”.*

**Moderator:** Ms Rethabile Maluke. Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Kingdom of Lesotho.

**Panelists:**

1. Ms. Christina Chatima Zakeyo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Malawi.
2. Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary, SACU.
3. Ms. Dorothy Ng’ambi Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Center
4. Mr. Dayford Nhema, Director, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Zimbabwe.
5. Mr. Sunil Boodhoo, Director, Trade, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius.
6. Mr. Francis Mangeni, Head of Trade Promotions and Programmes, AfCFTA Secretariat.

***List of guiding questions/thematic areas for discussion:***

- Can the AfCFTA be a game changer for inclusive industrialization in Southern Africa and how?
- How can specific protocols and provisions of the AfCFTA such as rules of origin, e-commerce and intellectual property provisions be harnessed to shape regional value-chain and intra-industry trade in the region?
- What are the strategies and policies your country have in place to enable its local industry and private sector to take advantage of the AfCFTA and of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and integrate in regional value-chains?
- Can Southern Africa promote a “Made in Southern Africa” approach to better take advantage of regional and global trade agreements including the SADC and COMESA Free Trade Areas, the TFTA and the AfCFTA?
- Is there a case for a common regional AfCFTA Strategy in Southern Africa?
- How to harness the SADC Vision 2050 and its Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) to achieve the goals of inclusive industrialization through commodity-based industrialisation, manufacturing and regional value chain development?

**11:45-13:00: Agenda item 7.**

High-level Panel Discussion on

*“New sources of competitiveness in Southern Africa’s inclusive and sustainable industrialization strategies: Blue, Green and Digital economies”.*

**Moderator:** Ms. Eunice G. Kamwendo, Director, ECA SRO-SA.

**Panelists:**

1. Dr. Macdonald Mwale, Director, Reserve Bank of Malawi.
2. Mr. Geerish Bucktowonsing, Director, Industry, Economic Development Board of Mauritius.
3. Mr. Mluleki Sakhile Dlamini, Director, MSME, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, ESwatini.
4. Mr. Jean Paul Adam, Director, Climate Change, Natural Resource Management and Technology, ECA.
5. Ms. Esther Mwimba, Senior Private Sector Development Officer, COMESA Secretariat

***List of guiding questions/thematic areas for discussion:***

1. What are the opportunities that blue, green and digital economies can offer to Southern African countries and their MSMEs to build back better post-covid as part of their inclusive and sustainable industrialization strategies?
2. What are the main success stories in blue, green and digital development in the region and the continent? And what can be learnt from them?
3. What are the challenges for Southern Africa to overcome in order to better harness the blue, green and digital economies in the context of the AfCFTA?
4. Are there specific sectors and subsectors in the blue, green and digital economies that can offer competitive advantages to Southern African countries and can they be identified?
5. What role can and should regional cooperation and existing regional and national industrial frameworks play in the development of blue, green and digital economies in Southern Africa?