SDG 9: Building resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation

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Why does SDG 9 matter for Sustainable Development in Africa?

• **Industrial development**: driver of structural transformation that contribute to creating decent jobs and generate incomes for all Africans, including women and youth;

• **Well-functioning infrastructure assets**: key drivers of economic development, growth in productivity and revenues, better income distribution and improvement in health and education;

• **Innovation**: critical to technological capabilities of business and environmentally friendly development, productivity growth and development of new skills;

• **Achieving SDG 9 would contribute directly or indirectly to several other SDGs and some of the aspirations of the Africa’s Agenda 2063**;
Progress on the SDG 9
Selected indicators

Manufacturing performance in Africa:

- Relative stability over the past years
- Africa’s performance remains below that of the world;

Figure 1: Manufacturing value added per capita, 2005, 2010 and 2015 (Constant 2010 US dollars)

Figure 2: Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP)

Source: Based on United Nations Statistics, UNData
Progress on the SDG 9
Selected indicators

- **Severe infrastructure bottlenecks:**
  - Very low density and poor state of transport infrastructure (roads, railways) resulting in high transaction costs – Railways density of 2.5 km/1000 km² of land area (world’s average of nearly 8 km per 1000 km²);
  - Grossly inadequate power supply – Half of Africans with no access to electricity

- **ICT performance**
  - Some progress so far…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected ICT Indicators in Africa, excluding North Africa</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile coverage (%)</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>internet penetration (%)</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>25.1</td>
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</table>

Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

- However, digitalization in Africa has long way to go – only 7 African countries were among the top 100 ICT performers worldwide in 2016;

- **Limited funding of research and development (R &D) –** far far from reaching the African Union’s target of 1 per cent of investment in R&D as a share of GDP

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Achieving SDG 9 in Africa: some challenges

Some key challenges

- Limited financial capacity of governments to scale up efforts;
- Limited private investments in Infrastructure – 9% of total in 2015

![Infrastructure funding by sources in Africa, 2015](image)

- Weak enabling environment for the private sector;
- Data gap to track progress on implementation of the development Agenda!

Source: Infrastructure consortium for Africa
Achieving SDG 9 in Africa: opportunities

Opportunities:

- Strong commitment of governments;
- Support from development partners;
- Several regional and international initiatives to complement countries’ efforts — Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)’s Programme for Country Partnerships (PCP), the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Trans African Highway (TAH) road network, the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), etc.
Concluding remarks

- African countries should diversify their economies by moving away from traditional trade patterns characterized by excessive reliance on export of raw materials.

- GVC- linking the entire sequence of economic activity from raw material extraction, R&D, design and production, to marketing and delivery and disposal after use – opening up avenues for industrial capacity building and structural transformation of economies.

- Promotion of manufacturing sector with resources shifted from low to high value added activities remain critical just as channeling more investments into infrastructure assets and technologies;

- Increase funding in R & D to reach the 1% share of GDP target to allow Africa as a late developer to leap-frog through innovation into mature industries.
Remarks contd.

- Special attention (support) should be given to SMEs who are the backbone of manufacturing sector and job creation in Africa; facilitate their integration into global economy

- Multi stakeholder approach when dealing with SDG 9 is a must! The private sector, governments, education and training providers must coordinate their efforts, including in the provision of vocational and technical education.
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Ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity for all

THANK YOU!

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