



**Webinar co-organized by Policy Studies Institute (PSI) Ethiopia and UNCTAD**

**South-South Integration – Sharing of Policy Experiences:  
Revisiting Trade and Industrial Policies in the times of Covid-19**

**7 February 2022**

**Concept Note and Programme**

**Background**

It is widely recognized that meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is inextricably linked with the process of structural transformation. The UNCTAD project “South-South Integration and the SDGs: Enhancing Structural Transformation in Key Partner Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative” identifies key policy areas in which limitations exist in government capacity in many countries, to effectively design, manage, coordinate, implement, and evaluate strategic economic interventions that are the policy levers of structural transformation. To address this shortcoming, the project aims to draw lessons from the experiences of partner countries, with a view to assisting national capacity-building.

Industrial and trade policies are important policy levers for structural transformation. No country has made the arduous journey from widespread rural poverty to post-industrial wealth without employing targeted and selective government policies to modify its economic structure and boost its economic dynamism. In the last decades, an increasingly interdependent world economy has reinforced the link between (domestic) industrial policy and trade policy. It is difficult to see how countries at all levels of development can respond to contemporary challenges – from job creation and poverty reduction to participating in the technological revolution and global value chains, from promoting efficient and clean energy to mitigating climate change and greening the economy, to responding to COVID-19 crisis – without using targeted trade and industrial policies.

**Purpose and objectives of the webinar**

This event launches the country-case studies on industrial and trade policies that were prepared for Ethiopia under the UNCTAD-project and discusses their findings. It brings together policy makers and researchers from various developing countries and addresses a wide audience. The objective is to stimulate domestic debate on the policy agenda and the key priorities for the 2022.

The key objectives and expected outcomes of the event are the following:

- To assess the experience of Ethiopia regarding industrial and trade policies designed to foster industrialization and structural transformation.
- To discuss how the COVID-19 crisis has changed the scenario and the key challenges and opportunities faced by the country.
- To create an open dialogue in which member States can gain a better understanding of the key industrial and trade challenges that developing countries are facing in the current global economic environment.

**Programme**  
**(Central European Time)**

February 7, 2022

**Moderator:** Mr. Piergiuseppe Fortunato, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

- 8:00–8:05     **Welcome address**, UNCTAD (5 mins)
- 8:05–8:15     **Keynote address:** High-level official from Ethiopia (10 mins) – Professor Beyene Peteros, Executive Director of PSI.
- 8:15–9:05     **Panel discussion**  
Kiflu G. Molla, PSI Ethiopia (15 mins)  
Berihu Assefa Gebrehiwot, PSI Ethiopia (15 mins)  
Neva Makgetla, TIPS, South Africa (10 min)  
Anushka Wijesinha, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka (10 min)
- 9:05–9:25     **Open discussion** (20 mins)
- 9:25–9:30     **Concluding remarks**, PSI (5 mins)

The event will take place through zoom. Online registration is required.

**Registration for the webinar:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcu2hpzkqHd3EG7AZusxNKSIEQYm3MZ6w>