



## **A special event**

### **Achieving accelerated structural transformation in Eastern Africa: Policy ideas from two United Nations bodies**

**Geneva, 21 and 22 June 2018  
Room XIV**

## **Concept note**

### **I. Background**

The Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have consistently argued that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in African countries requires a deep structural transformation of their economies. These arguments have been made through, inter alia, successive editions of the *Economic Report on Africa* (Economic Commission for Africa), the *Economic Development in Africa Report* (UNCTAD) and *The Least Developed Countries Report* (UNCTAD).

Eastern Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world but it is also one of the poorest. Yet the emphasis on structural transformation arises from concerns that the recent growth pattern in the region is neither sufficiently inclusive nor sustainable. Structural transformation has become part of the political lexicon and is increasingly captured in national and regional vision statements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Industrial Development Agenda of the East African Community. However, more purposeful policies are required to implement these agendas.

### **II. Purpose**

The Economic Commission for Africa and UNCTAD have published relevant knowledge products. However, the advice offered is often generic in nature and not sufficiently applicable to local circumstances. Applying that knowledge to particular case studies is often a challenge.

This special event will provide an opportunity for ambassadors, senior United Nations officials and other experts to explore the policy options for meeting the challenges of structural transformation in Eastern Africa. Further, the dialogue aims to pave the way for more in-depth collaboration between the Economic Commission for Africa and UNCTAD, to ensure greater cohesiveness of their respective research agendas and policy advice.

The main purpose of the event is to provide a platform to raise awareness and discuss how to maximize the economic and developmental impacts of accelerated structural transformation in Eastern Africa.

Further, the event will seek to foster integrated policies and strategies, deepen cooperation and partnerships, and enhance support for African efforts to ensure an economically sustainable structural transformation in Eastern Africa and across the continent.

### III. Participants and organization

The special event will bring together high-level officials from various United Nations entities working on trade and economic development. It will include presentations by senior staff members of the Economic Commission for Africa and UNCTAD. The sessions will feature selected participants and an audience consisting of ambassadors, United Nations delegates, accredited journalists, professionals from Geneva-based United Nations entities and researchers. The event will be open to Member States of the United Nations, civil society organizations, members of the United Nations system, international partners and representatives of academia.

The two-day event will feature thematic panels and keynote addresses on various topics that are essential to assess progress towards structural transformation in Eastern Africa. The thematic sessions will explore various economic and trade-related development challenges facing Eastern African countries, such as the role of manufacturing in structural transformation and employment growth, industrialization, investment and the scope of finance in supporting trade and poverty reduction. Evidence from case studies carried out in several Eastern African countries will also be discussed during the presentations. The event will conclude with a round-table discussion to synthesize the debate and consider how to put policy ideas into action with a view to achieving accelerated structural transformation in Eastern Africa.

### IV. Programme

Thursday, 21 June	
9 a.m.	Two steps forward one step back? Progress towards structural transformation in Eastern Africa  Speaker: Mr. Andrew Mold, Economic Commission for Africa  Background document: <i>Macroeconomic and Social Developments in Eastern Africa 2018</i>  <a href="https://www.uneca.org/publications/macroeconomic-social-developments-eastern-africa-2018">https://www.uneca.org/publications/macroeconomic-social-developments-eastern-africa-2018</a>
9.20 a.m.	Discussion
10 a.m.	Transformative regionalism, trade and the challenge of poverty reduction  Speaker: Mr. Patrick Osakwe, UNCTAD  Background document: <i>Transformative Regionalism, Trade and the Challenge of Poverty Reduction in Africa</i>  <a href="http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1236">http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1236</a>
10.20 a.m.	Discussion
11 a.m.	Coffee break

11.20 a.m.	<p>Structural change for inclusive and sustainable industrial development</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (tbc)</p> <p>Background document: <i>Structural Change for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development</i></p> <p><a href="https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2018-04/Structural_Change_for_ISID.pdf">https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2018-04/Structural_Change_for_ISID.pdf</a></p>
11.40 a.m.	Discussion
12.20 p.m.	Lunch break
1.40 p.m.	<p>Made in Africa: Accelerating the pace of structural transformation in Ethiopia</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Yohannes Hailu, Economic Commission for Africa</p> <p>Background document: <i>Structural Transformation, Employment, Production and Society: STEPS – Ethiopia 2018</i></p>
2 p.m.	Discussion
2.40 p.m.	<p>Catalysing economic growth and structural transformation: Policies towards a fit-for-purpose banking sector in Eastern Africa</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Ricardo Gottschalk, UNCTAD</p> <p>Background document: <i>Achieving Financial Stability and Growth in Africa</i></p> <p><a href="https://set.odi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Stephany-GJ-book-chapter.pdf">https://set.odi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Stephany-GJ-book-chapter.pdf</a></p>
3 p.m.	Discussion
3.40 p.m.	Coffee break
4 p.m.	<p>Migration and development in Eastern Africa</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Junior R. Davis, UNCTAD</p> <p>Background document: <i>Economic Development in Africa Report 2018: Migration for Structural Transformation</i></p> <p><a href="http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=2118">http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=2118</a></p>
4.20 p.m.	Discussion
<b>Friday, 22 June</b>	
9 a.m.	<p>Trade and investment-led growth as the key to Eastern Africa's graduation from least developed country status</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Rolf Traeger, UNCTAD</p> <p>Background document: <i>The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Path to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process</i></p> <p><a href="http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ldc2016_en.pdf">http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ldc2016_en.pdf</a></p>

9.20 a.m.	Discussion
10 a.m.	<p>Stalled industrialization? The case of Uganda</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Rodgers Mukwaya, Economic Commission for Africa</p> <p>Background document: <i>An ABC of Industrialization in Uganda: Achievements, Bottlenecks and Challenges</i></p> <p><a href="https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/an_abc_of_industrialisation_in_uganda_.pdf">https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/an_abc_of_industrialisation_in_uganda_.pdf</a></p>
10.20 a.m.	Discussion
11 a.m.	Coffee break
11.20 a.m.	<p>East African Community regional integration: Trade and gender implications</p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli, UNCTAD</p> <p>Background document: <i>East African Community Regional Integration: Trade and Gender Implications</i></p> <p><a href="http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditc2017d2_en.pdf">http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ditc2017d2_en.pdf</a></p>
11.40 a.m.	Discussion
12 p.m.	<p>Panel discussion with speakers from the Economic Commission for Africa, UNCTAD and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Frank Van Rompaey, United Nations Industrial Development Organization Representative in Geneva</li> <li>• Mr. Andrew Mold, Officer-in-charge, Economic Commission for Africa in Eastern Africa</li> </ul>
1 p.m.	<b>Closure</b>