



6–7 DECEMBER 2017
9.30 a.m.–6.30 p.m.
Serena Hotel, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

Transforming Southern Africa: issues at stake, challenges and policies

OVERVIEW

This workshop, co-organized by the Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment of the United Republic of Tanzania and UNCTAD in cooperation with UNIDO, is part of a three-year project funded by the United Nation's Development Account aiming to provide a forum of discussion to facilitate regional integration, the development of regional value chains (RVCs) and the coordination of industrial policies in the Southern African region. In the context of this initiative, a first regional workshop, jointly organized with the Department for Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Africa (DTI), was held in Pretoria in March 2017.

In the last two decades, industrial growth, especially in the manufacturing sector, has been lower in Southern Africa than in other parts of the continent. Services are absorbing most of the people moving out of agriculture, with employment in industry stagnant, at well below 10 per cent of the labour force. Most of the economies of the region are insufficiently diversified and dependent on a few, and unsophisticated, commodity exports. Recognizing the importance of revitalizing the industrial sector to spur economic growth and transformation, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) has adopted a common industrial strategy with the goal to “promote development of an integrated industrial base within SADC through the exploitation of regional synergies in value-added production and enhancement of export competitiveness,” including via “collaboration in the development of regional value chains with targeted interventions.” Analogous platforms have been adopted in the framework of other Regional Economic Communities, such as the East Africa Community (EAC) Industrialisation Strategy and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regional value chain strategies.

UNCTAD project aims at supporting this regional industrialization agenda and at facilitating policy identification and coordination to favor the development of RVCs. The main objective of this second regional workshop is to make concrete advancements in the inter-governmental discussion and to identify, and endorse, specific policy measures in three key areas: agro-processing, capital equipment for mining and energy provision.

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