

## CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

### PROMOTING AFRICA'S INDUSTRIALISATION: A CONVERSATION WITH THINK TANKS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Date / Time	Tuesday, 25 May 2021 at 13:00 (GMT+2) – 2h15
Venue/ Format	Virtual Consultative Meeting – ZOOM platform
Sub-theme	Building an inclusive and knowledge-driven industrialization for Africa
Objectives and outcomes	<p>This consultative meeting is intended to address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a platform for alignment and harmonization of capacity, approaches, and policies to design and implement effective industrialization actions within the context of Agenda 2063;</li> <li>• Help to translate continental and regional Industrialisation objectives into measurable targets through the establishment of a community of practice;</li> <li>• Jointly explore 'new' thinking on the necessary Africa industrialization pathways, considering the diversity across Africa's 55 member states), as well as implications of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic for Africa's Industrialisation;</li> <li>• Bridge existing gaps of knowledge and science, including information and communications technology (ICT) necessary for the industrialization development process; and identify opportunities for member states to leapfrog participation into the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution;</li> <li>• Contribute to AU momentum to champion renewed focus on Africa-Industrialisation among key stakeholders in the political, technical, private and research sectors to ensure complementary with the AfCFTA momentum.</li> </ul> <p>This meeting is intended to result in the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of existing issues and opportunities for Africa's Industrialisation to help to frame research priorities for evidence-based guidance and support;</li> <li>• Identification of opportunities for partnership to implement the AUDA-NEPAD programme on Industrialisation;</li> <li>• Agreement on options for input into the discussions on the African Union Summit on Industrialisation in 2021; and</li> <li>• Agreement on innovative mechanisms to reinforce collaboration and enhance integration and alignment in programming and implementation support among diverse players in Africa's Industrialisation ecosystem.</li> </ul>
Background and Rationale	<p>The rapid progress towards the realization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), has catalyzed the imperative to advance expansion in the continent's industrial capacity. The interdependences between industrialisation and the AfCFTA is a critical success factor for Africa's economic growth and development for the attainment of Agenda 2063's First Ten-Year Implementation Plan).</p> <p>Recognizing the significant contributions of think tanks and research institutions to interrogating Africa's development processes, strengthening leadership capacities, and advancing critical thinking and evidence-informed practices and innovation towards the</p>

	continent's economic integration ambitions and goals, AUDA-NEPAD places great importance on this particular engagement in building and fostering the AU's development agenda. The consultative meeting will be a key step in the process towards building a strong and coherent community of practice to advance an inclusive and resilient framework for Africa's Industrialisation.
Meeting Format	<p>The methodology of the webinar will include two targeted sessions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Panel Discussion to build a community of practice to advance Africa's industrialization to provide an enabling environment for the consolidation and harmonization of multi-stakeholder efforts;</li> <li>2. Plenary discussion to identify innovative mechanisms to strengthen collaboration and enhance integration and alignment in programming and implementation support within Africa's Industrialisation ecosystem</li> </ol> <p>The discussions are expected to contribute to advancing Africa's resolve and determination on Industrialisation by fostering knowledge-enriched industrialization through stronger collaborative partnerships with Think Tanks and Research institutions. Participants will be encouraged to discuss options to create an enabling environment for the consolidation and harmonization of multi-stakeholder efforts to advance Africa's industrialization and to prioritize actions to inform priority continental and regional processes such as the AU Summit on Industrialization to be held in 2021.</p>
Proposed Panelists	<p>Dr. Abdu Mukhtar, Director for Industrial and Trade Development, African Development Bank (tbc)</p> <p>Dr. Jakkie Cilliers, Chairperson of the Board Head of African Futures &amp; Innovation, Institute for Security Studies.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, The South African Institute for International Affairs. (tbc)</p> <p>Mr. Francisco Betti, Head of the Platform for Shaping the Future of Advanced Manufacturing and Production, World Economic Forum (tbc)</p> <p>Dr. Edward K. Brown, Senior. Director, Research &amp; Policy Engagements, The African Center for Economic Transformation – ACET.</p> <p>Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for Studies of Economies of Africa.</p> <p>Mr. Kimiaki Jin-san, Senior Assistant Director, Japan International Cooperation Agency.</p> <p>Prof. Landry Signé, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University, and Senior Director &amp; Full Professor at the Thunderbird School of Global Management.</p> <p>Prof. Neissan Besharati, Director at Pan-African Investment &amp; Research Services (PAIRS)</p> <p>Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief. UNIDO Regional Division – Africa</p> <p>Dr Ndumiso Cingo, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. (tbc)</p> <p>Ms. Elisabeth HEGE, Senior Research Fellow in Governance and Financing for Sustainable Development Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales- IDDRI.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr.George Murumba</p>
Supporting documents	1. Concept Note and agenda
Key takeaway messages coming out of the Session (based on actual discussions)	

**Agenda:**

<b>PROMOTING AFRICA'S INDUSTRIALISATION: A CONVERSATION WITH THINK TANKS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS</b> <b>Tuesday 25 May 2021</b> <b>Virtual – Zoom</b>	
13:00- 13:20	Introduction and opening remarks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of a recorded message from AfCFTA secretariat</li> <li>• Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, Director, Programme Delivery &amp; Coordination, AUDA-NEPAD.</li> <li>• Mr. Symmere Grey-Johnson, Supervisor Technical Cooperation and Programme Funding, AUDA-NEPAD.</li> <li>• Mr. Jean-Denis Gabikini, Acting Director of the Economic Affairs Department, AUC.</li> </ul>
13:20-14:15 (1h05min)	First session: Build a Community of Practice to advance Africa's industrialization to provide an enabling environment for the consolidation and harmonization of multi-stakeholder efforts
	Presentations by each panellist - 5min allocated to each of the panelists, covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing research programmes, initiatives, and partnerships of relevance to Africa's Industrialisation</li> <li>• Key challenges, opportunities, and lessons</li> </ul>
14:15- 15:00	Session two: Plenary discussion: Identify innovative mechanisms to strengthen collaboration and enhance integration and alignment in programming and implementation support within Africa's Industrialisation ecosystem
	Q & A covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify ways to translate African continental and regional Industrialisation priorities into measurable targets to align Africa's industrialization pathways across the continent?</li> <li>• How can African Member States be supported to leapfrog on the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution?</li> <li>• Key mechanisms to enhance integration and alignment of capacity, policy and practice? Immediate options for input into continental processes to promote Africa's Industrialisation (i.e. the African Union Summit on Industrialisation)</li> </ul>
	Introduce and launch the poll (5min/ duration of poll 3min)
	Healthy break (5min)
15:00- 15:15	Key take away points and next steps
15:00 – 15:15	Closing session