



Republic of Kenya



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ECA/SRO- EA/ICE/2016/07

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Original : English

20th MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (ICE)

Theme: Institutions, Decentralization and Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa

*Nairobi, Kenya
8-11 February 2016*

Roundtable Discussion on The Followers and Leaders' Pact: Towards New Horizons

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Nairobi, Kenya, 9 February 2016

Economic Commission for Africa, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (UNECA/SRO-EA)
P.O Box : 4654 KIGALI; TEL : (250) 252 586548 ; (250) 252 586549 ; FAX : (250)252 586546

E-mail: easrdc@uneca.org - www.uneca.org/sro-ea - Twitter: @eca_sro_ea

I. Background

1. The Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) will hold the Twentieth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 8-11 February 2016. The ICE is the statutory organ, which meets annually to define and monitor the implementation of the work programme of the ECA Office in Eastern Africa and to discuss key issues and challenges pertaining to the economic and social development of the sub-region with the view to making appropriate recommendations to address them.

2. In 2016, the ICE will focus on the theme of '*Institutions, Decentralisation and Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa*' as a way to further explore the relevance and effectiveness of decentralised political systems of governance as a means to building strong institutions¹, balancing national and local interest, enhancing social equity and national unity for development, legitimising markets and generating a "fair deal" for all. Case studies from Africa and beyond will expose the limitations and potential benefits of decentralisation processes in the context of strategic planning, decision making, management and allocation of resources, delivery of services, and programme implementation.

3. The ICE will include high-level panel sessions focused on components related to the main topic of the ICE. As part of these sessions, a roundtable discussion is scheduled to take place on '*The Followers and Leaders' Pact: Towards New Horizons*'. Mutually beneficial relationships between leaders and their followers have been identified as a key institutional ingredient to empowering citizens, communities, private sector leaders and other stakeholders towards structural transformation.

II. Rationale

4. Africa's structural transformation is a sine qua non stage on the continent's quest to build equitable and resilient economies. Its realisation will depend on the depth of the partnerships that are established between leaders and followers, the quality of governance and accountability mechanisms, and the strength of the platforms for multistakeholder participation in policy and decision making.

¹ Dani Rodrik. *One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions and Economic Growth*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007.

Reviewing the evolving institutional landscape for structural transformation is an important process to building a body of knowledge and practice on the changes happening in Africa. The exercise creates opportunities to distil lessons and draw relevant policy implications.

III. Objective of the event

5. The roundtable discussion aims to discuss the institutional make-up for structural transformation anchored on the relationships between leaders and followers. This would include discussions on the processes that can lead to (1) better matching of socio-economic and political decisions with identified local needs; (2) enhanced citizen participation in policy and decision-making through sustained civic awareness and education; (3) good governance and mutual accountability; (4) innovation, entrepreneurship and growth with shared benefits; (5) solid social compacts for change; and (6) mainstreaming of shared national values.

IV. Expected outcome of the event

6. It is expected that the roundtable will showcase leading examples of successful citizen and community empowerment experiences in Eastern Africa and contribute to a better understanding of the institutional foundations needed to accelerate structural transformation in the sub-region. This will include homegrown solutions.

V. Format of the roundtable

7. The roundtable will follow a Davos style format. Discussions will be facilitated by a moderator and will include a panel comprising of policy makers, representatives of leading Civil Society Organizations and well-known practitioners from Eastern Africa with a wealth of knowledge and experience on change making processes, governance and multistakeholder engagement, as well as citizen and community empowerment. The official languages of the event will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in both languages.

8. The moderator will be Ms. Julie Gichuru², news anchor at KBC Channel 1.

VI. Potential Speakers*

Names	Profiles
Representative (tbc)	Private sector perspective-KEPSA
Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro	Director, SRO-EA
Prof. Kitila Mkumbo	Senior Consultant in Education, Twaweza East Africa and Associate Professor of Psychology and Education, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Ms. Grace Maingi	Executive Director, Uraia Trust, Kenya

*Some panelists may intervene from the audience.

² Julie Gichuru conceptualized and hosts the Africa Leadership Dialogues, a syndicated current affairs program with a focus on African development and growth. <http://www.juliegichuru.com>.