

**Policy Dialogue on:**

**Achieving Accelerated Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa -  
Policy Ideas from Three UN Agencies**

Geneva, 21<sup>st</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

### **I. Background and Purpose**

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have consistently argued that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa requires a deep structural transformation of their economies. These arguments have been made through, inter alia, successive editions of ECA's flagship *Economic Report on Africa*, the UNCTAD's Economic Development in Africa series and UNIDO's Industrial Development Reports.

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 recent growth pattern in the region is neither sufficiently inclusive nor sustainable. Structural transformation has also become part of the political lexicon and is increasingly captured in national and regional vision statements – e.g. The Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the EAC's Industrial Development Agenda. But more purposeful policies are required to implement these agendas.

### **II. Purpose of the Policy Dialogue**

All three organisations – UNCTAD, UNIDO and UNECA - 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 the challenge.

The Geneva Policy Dialogue will provide an opportunity for ambassadors, senior UN officials and other experts to brainstorm and discuss policy options for tackling the challenges of structural transformation in Eastern Africa. The dialogue also aspires to pave the way for more in-depth collaboration between the three sister organisations, so that there is a greater cohesiveness in our respective research agendas and policy advice.

### III. Participants and Organisation.

This Policy Dialogue will be organised jointly between UNCTAD, UNECA and UNIDO. The session will feature selected participants as audience consisting of Ambassadors, journalists, professionals of Geneva-based UN agencies and researchers.

### IV. Keynote statements

The event will be opened by Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director of UNCTAD

### V. Proposed Presentations

	<b><u>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June</u></b>
9.00-9.20	<b>Two steps forward one step back? Progress towards Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa</b>  Speaker: Andrew Mold, UNECA  Background Document: "An overview of Eastern African: Macroeconomic & Social Developments in 2018"  <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>
9.20-10.00	Discussions
10.00-10.20	<b>Transformative Regionalism, Trade and the Challenge of Poverty Reduction</b>  Speaker: Patrick Osakwe, UNCTAD  Background Document:  <a href="http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1236">http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1236</a>
10.20-11.00	Discussions
11.00-11.20	Coffee Break
11.20-11.40	<b>Structural Change for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development</b>  Speaker Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, UNIDO  Background Document:  <a href="https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2018-04/Structural%20Change%20for%20ISID.pdf">https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2018-04/Structural Change for ISID.pdf</a>
11.20-12.20	Discussions
12.20-13.40	Lunch Break
13.40-14.00	<b>Made in Africa: Accelerating the Pace of Structural Transformation in Ethiopia</b>  Speaker: Yohannes Hailu, UNECA

	Background Document: <i>“Structural Transformation, employment, production and Society Employment, Production and Society (STEPS): Ethiopia”</i>
14.00-14.40	Discussions
14.40-15.00	<b>Catalysing Economic Growth and Strutral Transformation: Policies towards a ‘fit-for-purpose’ Banking Sector in Eastern Africa</b>  Speaker: Ricardo Gottschalk, UNCTAD  Background Document: <i>“Achieving Financial Stability and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa”</i>
15.00-15.40	Discussions
15.40-16.00	Coffee Break
16.00-16.20	<b>Migration and Development in Eastern Africa</b>  Speaker: Lisa Borgatti, UNCTAD  Background Document: <i>“Economic Development in Africa 2018”</i>
16.20-17.00	Discussions

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

9.00-9.20	<b>Trade and investment-led growth as the key to Eastern Africa’s graduation from LDC status</b>  Speaker: Rolf Traeger, UNCTAD  Background Document:
9.20-10.00	Discussions
10.00-10.20	<b>Stalled Industrialisation ?: The case of Uganda</b>  Speaker: Rodgers Mukwaya, UNECA  Background Document: <i>“An ABC of Industrialisation in Uganda: Achievements, Bottlenecks and Challenges”</i> <a href="https://www.uneca.org/publications/abc-industrialisation-uganda-achievements-bottlenecks-and-challenges">https://www.uneca.org/publications/abc-industrialisation-uganda-achievements-bottlenecks-and-challenges</a>
10.20-11.00	Discussions
11.00-11.20	Coffee Break

11.20-11.40	<p><b>How the African Continental Free Trade Area can help achieve the goals of Structural Transformation</b></p> <p>Speaker: Mesut Saygili, UNCTAD</p> <p>Background Document: "African Continental Free Trade Area: Challenges and Opportunities of Tariff Reductions" <a href="http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ser-rp-2017d15_en.pdf">http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ser-rp-2017d15_en.pdf</a></p>
11.20-12.00	Discussions
12.00-13.00	<p><b>Panel Discussion with speakers from ECA, UNCTAD and UNIDO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philippe Scholtès: Managing Director of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation at UNIDO</li> <li>• Andrew Mold: Officer-in-charge, ECA in Eastern Africa</li> <li>• Patrick Osakwe: Head of the Trade and Poverty Branch at UNCTAD</li> </ul>
	<b>Closure</b>