



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

7th North Africa Development
Forum (NADF)

Rabat, 21-22 November 2017

11th International Colloquium
of Rabat

Mohammed V University,
23-25 November 2017

Governance, Structural Transformation and Sustainable Inclusive Development

Aide memoire

I. Context and justification

In 2015, following African countries' adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2063 Agenda, ECA has committed to support the implementation of these agendas, namely by promoting the structural transformation of African economies. This process would ultimately involve a vigorous shift from traditional economic structures characterized by low added value towards a dynamic, more competitive and more productive economy, sustained by a more favorable environment. Within its mandate, ECA promotes thought creation and organizes debates offering member states and renowned experts in the various target areas a platform to share information, experiences and learnings, in such a way as to speed up the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas.

In line with this effort, the ECA's North Africa Sub-Regional Office is organizing on 21-22 November 2017 the 7th edition of the North Africa Development Forum (NADF), followed on 23-25 November 2017 by the 11th edition of the Rabat International Colloquium. Both the Forum and the Colloquium are organized in collaboration with UN agencies, the WTO Chair at Mohammed V University and the University of Toulon, as a contribution to ongoing reflections on the links and interactions between governance, structural transformation, and sustainable inclusive development.

The Forum will address the issue of governance as related to key topics for structural transformation, from resilient infrastructures and inclusive sustainable industrialization to the efficiency of public institutions and integration into global trade. The Colloquium, for its part, will discuss the impact of governance on alignment with the multilateral trading system, on regional integration, and on global value chains.

II. Objectives of the Forum

The main objective of the Forum is to contribute to the deepening of insights into the links and interactions between governance, structural transformation, and sustainable development. To achieve this, the Forum will bring together well-established researchers and experts as well as national and regional development actors so as to compare and contrast scientific and academic research with field practice. This exchange between academic researchers and development practitioners will also be supplemented by the 2017 edition of the International Colloquium of Rabat, which will be held in conjunction with the Forum. Based on the resulting discussions and insights, recommendations will be issued to contribute to speeding up the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas, especially in the field of governance.

The specific objectives of the meeting are the following :

- To have a common understanding of structural transformation process and governance in North Africa ;
- Improve our understanding of institutional inefficiencies and their impact on the economic transformation and inclusive development ;
- Understand the process of political inclusion and good governance ;
- Allow sharing of good practices, on the basis of the experience of other geographical areas, and finally ;
- Identify the areas of reforming the governance in North Africa to reach a faster and more inclusive economic transformation.

III. Expected Outcomes

In a specific way, at the end of the Forum :

- The participants will be aware of the importance of governance in the structural transformation and sustainable development process. In this context, the participants will get acquainted with the ECA capacity-building program in terms of governance and planning ;
- They will agree on the priority axis of governance enabling to accelerate the structural transformation of North African economies and draw lessons from others' experiences;
- They will formulate efficient recommendations to improve governance in the process of structural transformation and sustainable development;
- They will contribute to setting up a framework of formal reflection (electronic platform) to continue dialog and exchange between researchers and practitioners.

IV. Organization of the Forum

The Forum is organized in three major thematic sessions and one session will be dedicated to capacity-building and knowledge sharing :

Session 1 : Better governance and structural transformation to accelerate inclusive economic growth (SDG 9)

The links between structural transformation, inclusive economic growth and human development can be apprehended in various ways and in this session, taking into account the ECA mandate, the entry points that have a strategic impact on structural transformation and that have been selected are Governance in development and infrastructure management, and Governance in industrialization.

Session 2 : Rule of law, independent and transparent judiciary, and efficient institutions, are essential for sustainable development (SDG 16)

Enhancing the rule of law, stability and good governance are the essential conditions for structural transformation, sustainable development and job creation. This session will focus on economic governance and the efficiency of justice and public institutions to minimize the impact of decays such as corruption, fraud, theft and tax noncompliance on growth and development.

Session 3 : Governance and economic diversification

Assisting member countries to increase their participation in world trade in order to structurally transform their economy and meet the priority objective of job creation constitutes a decisive axis of ECA work. This session will emphasize governance enabling the development of available resources (natural resources, human resources and financial resources) to support the economic diversification in order to increase the share of our member countries in international trade. Particular attention will be given to the articulation of this session with the Colloquium.

Session 4 : Knowledge sharing and capacity development in the service of sustainable development

Sharing of knowledge and capacity development are two priority axis of ECA work and mandate. They are useful for the actors involved in the development to benefit from successful experiences and capitalize on the achievements of various development actors.

V. Forum and Colloquium Format

The Forum and the Colloquium will be held on 5 consecutive days and will be organized in such a way as to facilitate exchanges and reflection. They will mainly take place in plenary sessions to discuss the major issues and more specifically for the Colloquium, a limited number of parallel sessions around more specific topics will be organized. A more detailed program of work will be developed for each of the events.

VI. Participation and contribution

Only the experts from national, regional and international institutions who have been identified and specifically invited on the basis of their recognized expertise in their field of competence can participate in the forum, whereas the colloquium is intended for a wider audience from academic research and universities environment. The participants were identified following a call for papers and on the basis of their scientific contributions. It is also planned to allow university students to participate in this conference in order to encourage an exchange with the experts participating in the event.

VII. Partnerships

These meetings will be organized by the Bureau of the CEA-North Africa in collaboration with the ECA headquarters, IDEP, UMA, the WTO Chair of Mohammed V University in Rabat, the Laboratory of Development-Applied Economics (LEAD, University of Toulon), and other partners.

VIII. Date and place

The Forum and the Colloquium will be held in Rabat from 21 to 25 November 2017. The Forum will take place at Golden Tulip Farah Hotel in Rabat, on 21 and 22 November 2017 and the Colloquium works will be held from 23 to 25 November 2017 at Mohammed V University in Rabat.

IX. Contact Persons

For more information, please contact:

Coordination :

Omar Ismael Abdourahman
Economic and Social Affairs Officer
Abdourahman@un.org

Zoubir Benhamouche
Economic Affairs Officer
Benhamouche@un.org

Knowledge Management :

Salem Sebbar
Knowledge Management Officer
sebbar@un.org

Communication :

Houda Filali-Ansary
Communication Officer
filali-ansary@un.org

Director Secretariat :

Naima Sahraoui
Director Assistant
sahraoui.uneca@un.org

Documentation:

Mohammed Mosseddek
Senior Research Assistant, in Charge of Documentation
Mosseddek.uneca@un.org