

## 2017 African Economic Conference

The 12th African Economic Conference under the theme of “Governance for Structural Transformation”, was held between December 4 and 6, 2017 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

Organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Conference provided a forum for more than 300 participants consisting of representatives from Governments, academia, civil society and private sector from Africa and the rest of the World, who shared their experiences and innovative ideas on the various economic and policy issues related to governance policies and strategies for successful structural transformation. The conference provided a platform for valuable discussions, debate and useful insights over the three days in plenary sessions, special sessions, and concurrent sessions.

The conference started with opening remarks by Dr. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, ECA; Dr. Lamin Momodou Manneh, Director, Regional Service Center (RSC-A), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Dr. Célestin Monga, Vice President, Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, African Development Bank (AfDB). The opening remarks was followed by an Official opening statement by H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The opening ceremony included a keynote address by Prof. Richard Joseph, John Evans Professor of International History and Politics at Northwestern University.

Four plenary sessions provided a lively debate on a number of critical issues related to the governance-structural transformation nexus such as the concepts and practice of governance for structural transformation in Africa, the role of the State in governing development in Africa, inclusive resource governance as a driver of structural transformation, and the role of institutions in transformative governance. The conference also witnessed a number of special events by the three partnering institutions as well as UN-Women.

Thirty five scientific papers focusing on the various critical issues covered under the main theme this Conference were presented during the concurrent sessions.. Two papers were selected to receive the best paper award. The first paper was entitled “Economic Regulation and Employment Elasticities of Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa” by Abidemi C. Adegoye, from the University of Benin in Nigeria. The second paper entitled “Does the Implementation of Tax-Related Reforms and Institutions-Related Reforms Offer Scope for Sustained Tax Revenue Mobilization in Senegal?” and was presented by Ameth Saloum Ndiayde from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal.