



SIDE EVENT

“Promoting transformative investments for Africa’s industrialization 4.0” Launch of ECA reports

Background

Regional integration efforts in Africa have gained new impetus on the back of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Phase II negotiations, set to commence this year, will, among other issues, consider how the existing trade agreement should be best complemented with an investment dimension. At this side event, ECA will launch two reports that both explore some of the key, topical investment policy issues at the heart of regional integration and the possible implications and opportunities to promote investments that are conducive to Africa’s industrialization in the digital era.

Objective

The side event will assess what opportunities the African Continental Free Trade Area could provide in terms of enhancing investment attractiveness by consolidating investment regulation, while at the same time safeguarding the autonomy of African countries and levelling the playing field between different types of investors in Africa’s industrialization.

Format

The side event will take the form of a moderated panel discussion. It will commence with the presentation of the two reports, followed by an interactive debate with the following panellists:

- Chief, Market Institutions Section, ECA, Laura Páez;
- Former Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa, Rob Davies (tbc);

- A representative from the African Union Commission (tbc);
- A representative from UNCTAD (tbc).

Expected outcomes

- Provide an opportunity for member States to reflect on the relevance of investment regulation and drivers for investment in Africa in the context of the digital era;
- Highlight the uniqueness of the African Continental Free Trade Area as an opportunity to support greater investment;
- Discuss policy options and recommendations for harnessing the potential for greater investment in a continental space.

Target audience

Officials of ministries of economy, finance, economic planning, trade and industrialization; national and regional planners; experts from regional and international organizations.

Date and venue:

21 March 2020, 2–4 p.m., Conference Room 4,
United Nations Conference Centre, ECA, Addis Ababa.

For further information please contact

Ms. Laura Páez, tel: +251-11-5443543;
Email: paezl@un.org