

Conference of Ministers 2018

Side event

Structural transformation with a focus on Employment, Production and Society (STEPS)

Analysis of five countries: Ethiopia, Cameroon, Morocco, Zambia and Benin

Venue: Economic Commission for Africa Conference Centre,
Conference Room 3

At 11 a.m. on 13 May 2018

Since 2016, the Economic Commission for Africa has published 52 country reports in the *Country Profiles* series, which covers the African continent and was mandated in 2014 by ECA resolution 917 (XLVII). Recently, ECA introduced a conceptual framework to reshape the production of *Country Profiles*: STEPS Profiles build on the merits and strengths of the original *Country Profiles*, but take them a step further by sharpening their focus on structural transformation – with a view to enhancing their relevance and impact.

Our vision is to make STEPS Profiles the first point of reference for anyone seeking a concise and yet comprehensive assessment of structural transformation at the country level. Within the core objective of accelerating structural transformation (ST), there are three inherent dimensions to be assessed: employment (E), production (P), and society (S). This speaks directly to the need to transform economic and social structures, with employment playing a key role in linking economic growth (production) and social development (society) – in both directions. The main areas to be scrutinized are labour productivity, decent work, and education and skills (under “employment”); diversification, linkages, and technology (under “production”); and demography, health, and poverty and inequality (under “society”). Bearing in mind the ultimate objective of the framework – that is, achieving sustainable development through accelerated structural transformation – STEPS for Sustainable Development (STEPS4SD) is the framework that shapes the design and implementation of STEPS Profiles.

In essence, STEPS Profiles aim to be a strategic vehicle to produce and disseminate country and region-specific data and policy analysis on structural transformation, with a view to promoting sustainable economic and social development in member States.

This side event introduces the STEPS4SD framework and presents the pilot STEPS Profiles that have been produced to date. The event is open to all delegates and to the media.

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