

**Regional meeting on “Innovations for infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization”
26 March 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
King Fahd Palace Hotel (Conference Room B12-C12), Dakar, Senegal**

Guidance for contributors: Roundtable discussion on “Policy perspectives on the Infrastructure-Industrialization Nexus”, 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.

1. Overview

The meeting is a one-day, regional event in preparation for the 2017 Special Meeting of ECOSOC on “Innovations for infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization” on 31 May 2017, in New York. The key background references – including concept note and technical issues paper – serve as essential reading for this meeting and are available online [here](#). Information about the larger initiative can also be found there.

It is critical that we maximize the potential of convening such high levels of expertise and experience on this topic in Dakar. Each moderated discussion should aim to bring out key lessons, experiences and potential solutions with respect to the challenges and opportunities identified by the various participants. This will also allow for fruitful knowledge exchange among the participants.

Concrete recommendations and key messages emerging from this meeting will be presented by the President of ECOSOC to the AUC-ECA joint meeting of Ministers on Tuesday, 28 March, and carried forward to the New York meeting in May. The President of ECOSOC intends to highlight, scale up or launch two to three new and emerging initiatives in support of infrastructure, industrialization and innovation at the New York meeting in May.

2. Format

The one-day meeting will consist of about 75 participants, including Government Ministers, policy-makers, representatives from the public and private sectors and academia, among others. It will take place in a large round-table conference setting to ensure an interactive discussion. It is open to all participants who have registered with the AUC-ECA joint meeting organizers.

The morning will be organised to put the focus in two plenary discussions on expert and technical perspectives with respect to the meeting theme. After lunch, the afternoon session kicks off with a formal welcoming session and will be followed by a ministerial roundtable discussion that will build on the analyses of the morning session.

3. General guidelines

- The ECOSOC President will begin by introducing the Presenter (Mr. Navid Hanif) and inviting him to deliver his report-back presentation (10 minutes) on emerging messages and recommendations from the morning session.
- Once the Presenter is finished, the Moderator should make brief opening remarks to set the stage for the discussion, by providing some context (1-2 minutes) and briefly introducing the panellists. The Moderator may also draw on elements from the report-back throughout the session, as he sees fit.
- The Moderator will give each of the panellists the floor to make focused 8-10 minutes of remarks, guided by the theme, description and questions for their session. Panellists should draw on the unique perspective afforded by their respective work and experience in relation to the issues presented.

- The moderator will assist with time management and facilitate discussion following the presenter and panellists' initial interventions. He should collect questions from the floor and ensure that panellists have a chance to respond, while keeping focus on key issues and tangible messages/recommendations.
 - The moderator will invite the presenter and panellists to give brief closing reflections (1-2 minutes) at the end of each session.
 - The moderator may also give brief wrap-up remarks, including initial identification of some of the key emerging messages and recommendations.
 - The moderator may also choose to email the presenter and panellists in advance to make introductions and facilitate a brief email exchange. Depending on schedules, the moderator could propose a brief meeting of the panel beforehand.
4. Roundtable discussion on "Policy perspectives on the Infrastructure-Industrialization Nexus", 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair will invite the presenter to give a short overview of the morning meeting of technical experts, providing feedback and key messages on the infrastructure-industrialization nexus and country experiences. Following the presentation of highlights, the Chair will invite the moderator to conduct a roundtable discussion of Ministers and high-level participants, who will share policy perspectives on these issues and place special emphasis on recommendations for successful infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization.

The broader context for national action is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related, complementary commitments at the regional and international levels. Sustainable development progress requires integrated, holistic and nexus-based approaches. This session aims to identify how infrastructure, industrialization and innovation can be strengthened while complementing efforts as part of overall sustainable development plans within countries.

Possible discussion questions

- *What steps are needed to build the momentum for a transformative industrialization and infrastructure strategy in Africa, or other developing regions?*
- *In the context of the 2030 Agenda, what are some of the challenges to policy integration and coherence at the national level in pursuit of SDG-9 on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation?*
- *How can policy and regulatory frameworks be strengthened and adapted to support infrastructure and industrialization that is consistent with commitments made to poverty eradication and sustainable development?*
- *What role has development cooperation played (North-South, South-South, triangular and regional cooperation) in advancing progress on infrastructure and industrialization, and how can their impact be enhanced?*

5. Contributors

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Email address</u>
Presenter	Mr. Navid Hanif	Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN DESA	hanif@un.org

Moderator	Mr. Paul Maseli	Director and UNIDO Representative to the United Nations and other International Organizations	maseli@un.org
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