

**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: Plenary discussion on “National-level efforts toward infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization”, 10:45 a.m. – 1:00 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. 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.

3. General guidelines

- 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 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 presenters and discussants’ 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 concrete recommendations.
- The moderator will invite 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 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. Plenary discussion on “National-level efforts toward infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization”, 10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This session will draw on participants’ perspectives from their respective work at country level in infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization. Although the financial and technical resources required are usually vast and context-specific, there are a number of innovative national examples from within Africa and beyond the region which can point the way forward for developing countries and countries in special situations.

Possible discussion questions

- *Drawing on your work at the country level, what have traditionally been the biggest obstacles to infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization?*
- *What measures at the national level have had the greatest impact in terms of stimulating investment, whether domestic or external, in infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization?*
- *What areas are critical for building national capacities to support the sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness of infrastructure and industrial programmes and policies?*

5. Contributors

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Email address</u>
Moderator	Mr. Patrick Osakwe	Head, Trade and Poverty Branch, UNCTAD	patrick.osakwe@unctad.org
Panellist	Mr. Prosper Akpa-Akmel	Special Advisor to the Vice President, Investment, Private Sector, Côte d’Ivoire	prosperakpa@yahoo.com
Panellist	Professor Edward Lorenz	Professor of Economics, University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis, France	edward.lorenz@gredeg.cnrs.fr
Panellist (TBC)	Dr. Arkebe Oqubay	Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia	aom@gmail.com ; aom@pmo.gov.et ; cc: mediberhe@gmail.com
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Panellist	Dr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram	Visiting Senior Fellow at Khazanah Research Institute, and Visiting Fellow at Columbia University	jomoks@yahoo.com
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