



# AIDE-MEMOIRE

## Africa Industrialization Day 2017

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*African Industrial Development: A Pre-Condition for an Effective and Sustainable Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)*

20 November 2017, 14:30 – 17:00

Conference Room 3, C-Building, Vienna International Centre (VIC)  
Vienna, Austria



# Africa Industrialization Day 2017

## Aide Memoire

### I. Background

The African continent is the second most-populated continent in the world, home to over 1.2 billion people, or 16% of the world's population. Despite this, Africa currently only accounts for less than 2% of international trade and global manufacturing. In order to curb these numbers, and allow the African continent to assume its role in the international system, it is paramount to focus on Africa's inclusive and sustainable industrial development. In order to overcome poverty, and lead their countries to prosperity, African countries need to therefore focus on inclusive and productive sector-led growth which is critical to lifting people out of poverty, and allowing vulnerable communities to benefit from and contribute to the economy.

Within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000), the UN General Assembly, in 1989, proclaimed the 20<sup>th</sup> of November "Africa Industrialization Day" (AID) (resolution 44/237). The purpose of this day is to raise global awareness regarding the industrialization challenges faced by the continent with regards to industrialization and to mobilize both African leaders and international Organizations to advocate for the accelerated and sustainable industrialization of Africa.

The important contribution of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in helping Africa overcome its critical development challenges is clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG9), calling to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, and Agenda 2063, encompassed in Aspiration 1 of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, under "a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development".

Furthermore, as 2016 marked the beginning of the Third Industrial Decade for Africa (IDDA3), this year's AID continues to play a special role in promoting the acceleration of sustainable industrial development in Africa, of which private sector contributions is a critical component.

To realize their potential, African countries need to achieve a level of industrialization that allows them to implement a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), as adopted by the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2012, in order to expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level.

UNIDO stands ready to reiterate its commitment and support to African countries in their pursuit of ISID. Therefore, we would like to accelerate the achievement of a CFTA by focusing on Africa's industrialization, and by allowing experts to get together to discuss previous successful strategies, as well as past pitfalls, and the way forward.



## II. Objective of the conference

The objective of this year's Africa Industrialization Day is to raise awareness of the importance of African industrial development in implementing a successful CFTA, and therefore further growing Africa's economy and supporting the eradication of poverty. The event will take into consideration the role that industrialization plays in enhancing market competitiveness, and elaborate on the necessary steps to be taken in order for African countries to realize their potential.

This year's symposium will:

1. Provide an overview of challenges the African continent is currently facing in achieving industrialization
2. Highlight the importance of a CFTA and its benefits
3. Deliver an account of recent successful strategies
4. Propose additional measures to be put in place for maximising intra-African trade and enhancing competitiveness
5. Explore options for seizing opportunities to maximise support in these endeavours
6. Highlight a critical set of priorities which would facilitate the success of future strategies

## III. Participation

Participants will include African Ministers, Ambassadors, senior policy makers, UN organization representatives, entrepreneurs, as well as representatives of civil society and academia.



## IV. Event Agenda

The event will take the format of a symposium, with a panel discussion. The discussion will be guided by a moderator. The two-and-a-half hour event will commence at 14:30, and conclude at 17:00.

<b>14:30</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction by Mr. Jeff Koinange, Host of Jeff Koinange LIVE (Moderator)</b>
<b>14:35</b>	<i>Opening remarks by Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO</i>
<b>14:45</b>	<i>Message from the UN Secretary-General, delivered by Mr. Yury Fedotov</i>
<b>14:50</b>	<i>Remarks by the Chairperson of the African Group in Vienna</i>
<b>15:00-16:25</b>	<i>Panel Discussion</i>  <u>Moderator</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Jeff Koinange</b>, Host of Jeff Koinange LIVE</li></ul> <u>Panelists (see <a href="#">panelist proposals document</a>)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Sayida Ounissi</b>, Secretary of State in Charge of Professional Training and Entrepreneurship, Tunisia</li><li>• <b>Mr. Stéphane Akaya</b>, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Togo</li><li>• <b>Ms. Ndidi Nwuneli</b>, Founder of LEAP Africa, Co-Founder of AACE Food Processing &amp; Distribution, Partner at Sahel Capital</li><li>• <b>Mr. Patrick Osakwe</b>, Head of the Trade and Poverty Branch, UN Conference for Trade and Development</li><li>• <b>Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento</b>, Director of the Department of Trade, Investment, and Innovation, UNIDO</li><li>• <b>Mr. Soteri Gatera</b>, Chief, Industrialization and Infrastructure Section Regional Integration and Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Mamadou Niane</b>, Co-Founder and Associate Director of Afrimalin</li><li>• <b>Ms. Anabela Dinis</b>, Assistant Professor, University of Beira Interior, Portugal</li></ul>
<b>16:25-16:55</b>	<i>Interventions from the floor, moderated by Mr. Jeff Koinange</i>
<b>16:55</b>	<i>Wrap-up by the Moderator</i>
<b>17:00</b>	<i>End</i>