



**Eighth Ministerial Conference of the  
Least Developed Countries**  
2 November 2019, Abu Dhabi, UAE

---

**Accelerating Industrialization in LDCs:  
Lessons Learned and Innovative Approaches**

---

## **Round Table 1: Accelerating the pace of structural transformation**

### **Introductory Talking Points by the Chairperson**

As countries edge into a higher degree of industrialization, they undergo structural transformation of their economies and the manufacturing sector. During these round table discussions and interventions, we are going to examine the extent and effectiveness of structural changes in LDCs, focusing largely on the implications going forward.

The main focus is a stocktaking by relevant UN agencies: UN OHRLLS and UNIDO to present progress made under the Istanbul Programme of Action and lessons learnt moving forward to the next programme of action for LDCs to be adopted in 2021.

- Emphasis on structural transformation for increased manufacturing value added in LDCs
- Emphasis on conducive policies and visions to achieve development goals
- The role of development partners such as UN organisations, specifically UN OHRLLS and UNIDO: stocktaking of progress made under the Istanbul Programme of Action and take-aways for the next programme of action to be adopted in 2021

I hope that the ideas that emerge during this session will spell out the contours and tenets of new approaches towards triggering structural transformation within the economy and the manufacturing sector and inputs for the next programme of action.



## Biography

### SESSION I:



**Mr. Aniket Ghai**, Senior Economic Affairs Officer

Aniket Ghai, a Kenyan national, joined the Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in 2017. Prior to that he served in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in Ban Ki-moon's cabinet-style Policy Committee. Previously, he was Policy Advisor in the Executive Office of UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. He also worked at UNEP's Environment Management Group secretariat, where he coordinated a UN system-wide approach to the Green Economy, and the UN climate neutral strategy. He coordinated the first-ever UN Palestinian environmental assessment and implemented a programme Israeli-Palestinian environmental cooperation during the Second Intifada. He was part of the secretariat staff that negotiated the Rio Earth Summit (UNCED) secretariat and the UN Climate Change Convention and Kyoto Protocol. He has also worked for ILO and UNCTAD, and advised governments and NGOs on trade, sustainable development and climate change. He was educated at Oxford University, UK, and Columbia University, New York, USA.



**Mr. Philippe R. Scholtès**, Managing Director, Directorate of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation at UNIDO

Philippe Scholtès is Managing Director, Directorate of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation at UNIDO. He oversees in that capacity the technical assistance programme of UNIDO – a portfolio of over 800 projects for a total value of 1.4 billion dollars, delivered by 1800 staff and project personnel at UNIDO HQs in Vienna and in a hundred developing and emerging countries.

The Directorate promotes through technical assistance UNIDO's mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID). It rests on four Departments: Energy, Environment, Agribusiness and Trade, Investment and Innovation. A fifth Department, Programmes, Partnerships and Field Integration leverages these resources in joint operations with other UN agencies, private firms, investment banks and development finance institutions under execution in a growing series of national programmes for country partnerships.

Prior to his role of Managing Director, Mr. Scholtès was Director of UNIDO's Agribusiness Development Department; he also served as UNIDO Represent New Delhi, India. Mr. Scholtès, a Belgian National, holds a M.Sc. degree in Engineering (major electro-mechanics) and a M.Sc. Degree in Economics (major mathematical economics). He has published in economics, energy economics, industrial organization, etc.

He is married and has two sons.



**Eighth Ministerial Conference of the  
Least Developed Countries  
2 November 2019, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

---

**Accelerating Industrialization in LDCs:  
Lessons Learned and Innovative Approaches**

---

**Round Table 2: Ensuring the required policy space and good governance**

**Key Issues**

Key lessons from the graduation paths are: (i) good governance being the most determining factor in exploiting the natural resources of a country for the cause of fostering sustainable development; (ii) a unique blend of economic specialization and progress in human asset development constituting an infinite source of wealth creation; and (iii) domestic capacity building, research and innovation triggering structural transformation away from low-productivity into higher-productivity manufacturing and modern services, leading to more diversified economies. The task of replicating those best practices on the path to graduation is a formidable challenge for many LDCs due largely to the fact that natural resource revenues are not sufficiently channeled into building human assets. Learning lessons from the above inferences are crucial to accept corrective steps on the graduation path.

Commodity booms have repeatedly offered a huge opportunity for countries that possess valuable natural resources. Many of these countries are currently very poor and the revenues generated from the boom are their best chance for transformative development. However, such opportunities have often not been seized in the past. Sometimes valuable resources have not been exploited because the conditions necessary for their cost-effective extraction were not met. More often, resources have been extracted but the resulting revenues have not been used effectively for sustained development.

Small countries with limited resource endowments often follow this path as the options are limited but the opportunities stemming from specialization are plenty. A dynamic pathway is underpinned by educational systems that are continually restructured, with an accent on technical and vocational education providing a growing pool of skilled workers and technicians, and fostering rapid



expansion of engineering, business and computer education. Sustained efforts on strengthening the skill base can convert enclave type labor intensive operations into horizontally integrated manufacturing, with ever increasing development of manufacturing-complimentary service activities on the pathway to graduation. The real issues pertains to the challenge of ensuring compatibility between those new industrial realities and national priorities aiming at lifting millions out of the clutches of poverty.

### **Questions for Interactive Discussion:**

In the light of the above issues, interactions during the round table session are expected to focus largely on the following questions:

- What are the facets of targeted industrial policies which benefit country-specific context that can respond to address challenges ranging from job creation and poverty reduction to participating in the technological revolution and global value chains?
- How can industrial governance be enhanced and monitored through effective industrial policy interventions and institutional mechanisms?
- What are the effective means of enhancing the skills and capabilities of policy-makers and civil servants in conceptualizing, formulating, implementing and auditing industrial policy interventions with a high degree of transparency and accountability towards ensuring good governance?
- How can the private sector stakeholders become empowered formally in the industrial policy dialogue and facilitate their active participation in industrial policy formulation and implementation on a regular basis?



## Biography

### SESSION II



**Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi**, Managing Director and Deputy to the Director General, Directorate of External Relations and Policy Research, UNIDO

Hiroshi Kuniyoshi is Deputy to the Director General of UNIDO since April 2017. Prior to joining UNIDO, Mr. Kuniyoshi joined the Government of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (METI) responsible for planning and implementing a variety of industrial and technology policies in various sections; a Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology conducting research and education in policy studies in relation to industry, technology & innovation; appointed as Executive Director of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), where he was responsible for global collaborative projects for the development of low-carbon technologies e.g.: renewable energy, battery storage and smart grids. Mr. Kuniyoshi holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and a Ph.D. in Energy Science from Kyoto University."

### PANELISTS



**Zambia:** H.E. Mr. Christopher Bwalya Yaluma, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry

H.E. Christopher Bwalya Yaluma is a member parliament for Malole Constituency and was appointed Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development for the Republic of Zambia. H.E. Mr. Yaluma has a wide range of expertise and experiences regarding power system management in which, H.E., mentored numerous engineers in the industry. Prior to the appointment of Minister, H.E. Mr. Yaluma worked as Network Services Manager responsible for network planning, design and construction for both power and control technologies. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Yaluma holds a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from University of Idaho, USA.



**Cambodia:** H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts

Prior to appointment of his current role in 2013, Prasidh served as the Minister of Commerce for 15 years. Prasidh also had extensive high-level roles, including of the Chief Negotiator for Cambodia's Accession to the World Trade Organization, ASEAN Economic Minister for Cambodia, and ASEM Economic Minister for Cambodia.



**Myanmar:** H.E. Mr. Min Ye Paing Hein, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry

H.E. Min Ye Paing Hein is now serving as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry. He is concurrently serving as a member of the National Economic Coordination Committee (NECC) and Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU). Until recently, he was the executive director of Myanmar Development Institute. Prior to his current positions, he worked as an economist at the World Bank. He studied at Cornell University, London School of Economics and the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he received his Ph.D.



**Benin:** H.E. Ms. Assouman Alimatou Shadiya, Minister of Industry and Commerce



**AUC:** H.E. Mr. Albert Muchanga, Commissioner of Trade and Industry

H.E. Albert M. Muchanga was elected as the commissioner for Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission in 2016. Prior to this, Mr. Muchanga was the Permanent Secretary in the Cabinet Office in charge of Parliamentary Affairs in Zambia. He also served as the first Zambian ambassador designate to Brazil and as an ambassador to Ethiopia with extra accreditation to the African Union. Mr. Muchanga was also the first Zambian to serve at Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) as deputy Executive Secretary. He has both at home and abroad dealt with issues broadly related to international economic policy analysis and



implementation as well as regional integration, foreign policy analysis and implementation.

**UNECA:** Mr. Gamal Ibrahim, Chief, Development Planning Section, Macroeconomics and Governance Division

Gamal Ibrahim is currently the Chief, Finance and Private Sector Section, Macroeconomic Policy Division of UNECA. Prior to this position, Mr. Ibrahim was a Senior Economist in Arab Planning Institute and Economic Affairs Officer in Enterprise Section of UNECA. Furthermore, Mr. Ibrahim holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Nottingham Trent University, UK; M.A. in Development Economics from University of Leeds, UK; and B.Sc. in Economics from University of Khartoum.



**UNCTAD:** Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief of LDC Section Division for Africa, UNCTAD

Since 1991, Rolf Traeger worked as an economist for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Currently, Mr. Traeger is the Chief of the LDC Section Division for Africa, as well as lead author of the UNCTAD's LDC Report. In 1999, Mr. Traeger worked at the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) co-author of the Economic Survey of Europe. His research interests include development strategies & policies, structural transformation, poverty, science, technology & innovation, international trade, capital flows and economic geography. Mr. Traeger holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and a MSE from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.



**UNESCAP:** Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section

Oliver Paddison is the Chief of the Countries with Special Needs Section at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This section monitors progress in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS. Mr. Paddison is greatly involved in coordinating and providing capacity-building support for policymakers in LDCs, to assist in developing integrated approaches aimed to enhance regional cooperation with relevance to the SDGs. He also leads the production of the *Countries with Special Needs Development Report*, the most recent edition of which covered the role of structural transformation in reducing poverty in countries with special needs. Prior to joining ESCAP, Mr. Paddison worked for the United Nations Department



of Economic and Social Affairs in New York (DESA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Mr. Paddison holds a Ph.D. and M.A in Economics from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and a B.Sc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



**Eighth Ministerial Conference of the  
Least Developed Countries  
2 November 2019 – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

---

**Accelerating Industrialization in LDCs:  
Lessons Learned and Innovative Approaches**

---

**Round Table 3: Promoting innovative partnerships and fund  
mobilization**

**Key Issues**

The availability of and access to finance a new course of industrialization in LDCs in the context of the rapidly changing dimensions of sustainable industrial development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century constitute a formidable challenge. LDCs, though a latecomer in the sphere of industrialization, can leapfrog provided the preconditions for fostering productivity growth and enhancing competitiveness are adequately financed. There is a significant funding gap to fulfil LDCs' infrastructure needs, which cannot be met by current official sources of funding alone. In particular, the proportion of Official Development Finance (ODF) in total infrastructure spending is modest. Private investment seems to offer some promising way to close the funding gap for LDCs' infrastructure. But its contribution is meager given the huge infrastructure developmental needs to address the issues of high cost of production and of doing business.

Obstacles in funding infrastructure investment in LDCs include, among other things, political instability, weak public administration, unreliable legal frameworks, lack of good governance, low capacity of project promoters, bankability of projects, lack of long-term financing, and insufficient resources for project preparation. Technical assistance to capacity for efficient legal framework, project preparation, and monitoring capabilities could effectively address those issues.

Complying with the tenets of SDG 9, innovation needs to be accorded top priority. Knowledge is a source, and innovation is a force. What LDCs need today is funding for promoting incremental innovation which stems from effective transfer of technology. Institutional finance should be made available for acquiring the right technology, assimilate the technology, adopt and adapt it, and



learn to invent new products which benefit country-specific context. Adaptive R&D is underpinned by adapting imported technology to local conditions, which is common in developing countries. It raises the question whether governments can stimulate adaptive R&D at enterprise level merely by financial stimulus. In order for the financial stimulus to succeed a number of non-financial instruments are needed. Non-fiscal instruments include: strengthening tertiary education in science and technology at the university and polytechnic levels; engineering positive FDI spillovers to local SMEs; and creating an enabling policy environment for strengthening university-enterprise linkages. Funding the establishment of innovation chairs by the corporate sector in universities could be an effective means of paving the way for dovetailing industry-university linkages. All these initiatives will need to be funded by different sources within the framework of innovative partnership for fund mobilization.

### **Questions for interactive discussion:**

In the light of the above issues, interactions during round table session are expected to focus largely on the following questions:

- Do available financial resources flow to where they are needed in the sphere of industrialization?
- In view of ODA being inadequate to meet the needs of 2030 Agenda, how to make LDCs use effectively other official and private financial flows to accelerate the pace of sustainable development, using manufacturing as a dynamic force?
- What are the effective means of attracting financial flows from LDCs diaspora for inclusive and sustainable industrial development and what type of incentives will divert a part of inward remittances to the productive sectors?
- What are the new financial instruments capable of helping LDCs more effectively to manage risk and vulnerability?
- What are the facets of a diversified domestic financial “tool-box” that can make LDCs leverage additional public and private resources for inclusive and sustainable industrial development?



## Biography

### MODERATOR

---



#### **Ms. Eve Hester-Wyne, Moderator, Director and Producer**

Eve Hester-Wyne, an experienced UAE-based producer and director has worked for various international broadcasters including BBC, CNN, NBC, CBC, and RTE. Her repertoire of work has exceeded professionalism, where a large proportion of her current work involves creating quality films for Emirates Airline and other corporations. Ms. Wyne holds a M.A. and B.A. in Trinity College Dublin, as well as received an F.E.T.A.C. Certificate in Print Journalism in 2004.

### INTRODUCTION



#### **Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director for Corporate Management and Operations of UNIDO since 2016**

Ms. Haidara joined UNIDO in 2004 as Director of the Africa Bureau. She was responsible for the overall coordination of UNIDO's activities in Africa, ensuring the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes. In 2006, she was appointed as Director of the Special Programmes Group, in this capacity, she coordinated UNIDO's participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in Istanbul, Turkey. As Director of the Policymaking Organs Secretariat, together with the Government of Peru, she coordinated in 2013, the historic 15<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO which culminated in the adoption of the Lima Declaration that set the foundation for a renewed mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).

Prior to joining UNIDO, Ms. Haidara served the Government of Mali for eight years in various ministerial positions, including Employment and Vocational Training, Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development. She led many ministerial delegations to international forums, notably the first World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference.

Ms. Haidara holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Management from the University of Reims, France.



## PANELISTS



**Madagascar:** H.E. Ms. Lantsoa Rakotomalala, Minister of Industry and Commerce

Appointed as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Crafts of the Malagasy Government in January 2019, H.E. Ms. Lantsoa Rakotomalala is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) of Canada. Graduated in International Relations and Entrepreneurship from various countries, H.E. Ms. Rakotomalala joined the Government of Madagascar with 18 years of experience in major international organizations across 13 countries, including La Francophonie, the World Bank Group, the Canadian International Development Agency, and HEC MONTREAL Campus. H.E. Ms. Rakotomalala held management positions abroad, known for her strategic and entrepreneurial spirit, professionalism, rigor and communication fluency eased by fluent English. H.E. Ms. Rakotomalala is a recipient of international recognition awards for her involvement in entrepreneurship, expertise in private sector development, SME technical assistance and financing projects implementation, as panelist on topics related to industrialization and international trades, and innovation. Furthermore, H.E. Ms. Rakotomalala is a board member of several organizations and companies in Canada and Madagascar.



**Ethiopia:** H.E. Mr. Admasu Nebebe Gedamu, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation

H.E. Admasu Nebebe, State Minister, Ministry of Finance has over 25 years of progressive leadership experience at the Ministry including Director of United Nations Agencies and Regional Economic Cooperation Directorate; Head, Climate Resilient Green Economy Facility. During his tenure, H.E., among others, led the mobilization of external resources for the country's Growth and Transformation Plan; mobilized, negotiated and signed foreign development grants and loans; managed and coordinated bilateral economic cooperation as well as the relationship with international and regional organizations; and oversaw the implementation of external economic agreements and programs. H.E. Admasu has a BA Degree from Addis Ababa University in Management and Public Administration; and an MA in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, The Netherlands.



**Bangladesh:** H.E. Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, Minister for Industries

H.E. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun is the Minister for Industries People's Republic of Bangladesh and Member of Parliament from Narsingdi. Prior to appointment of Member of Parliament, H.E. Mr. Humayun was the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Commerce in Bangladesh, and the former Chairperson of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Humayun was a part of Bangladesh Awami League delegation team to China. H.E. Mr. Humayun holds a M.M.S and a Law degree from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.



**WTO:** Mr. Yonov Frederick Agah, Deputy Director General

Yonov Frederick Agah initiated his first term as Deputy Director-General of the WTO on 1 October 2013, and has been reappointed for a second four-year term, starting on 1 October 2017. Prior to this position, Mr. Agah was appointed as Nigeria's Ambassador to the WTO in 2005; served as the Alternate Chief Negotiator for the Doha Round and Head of Nigeria's Trade office to the WTO in the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to United Nations Office in Geneva, with responsibility for Nigeria's participation in Geneva-based trade-related international organizations. Mr. Agah served as Chair of the WTO's General Council greatly contributing to organizing the 8<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference; and served as Chair for numerous WTO bodies. Mr. Agah holds a M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Economics from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria; obtained a Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from the University of Jos, Nigeria; a doctoral dissertation on "*Trade Policy Reform and Economic Growth in Nigeria Since 1986*"; and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Abuja, Nigeria.



**Technology Bank for LDCs:** Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director

Joshua Phoho Setipa began the role of Managing Director for the Technology Bank for LDCs in November 2018. Mr. Setipa has over 20 years of experience in senior roles on international trade, economic policies, investment strategies & economic development at a national, regional and multilateral levels. Additionally, Mr. Setipa's accomplishments include leading strategic engagements with West Africa and establishing national and regional development projects in Sub Sahara Africa. Prior to his current position, Mr. Setipa served as the Minister of Trade and Industry for the Government of Lesotho to initiate the adoption of national industrial policy, and served as Senior Advisor to the Director



General of the WTO. Mr. Setipa holds a M.A. of Business Administration and International Finance from the University of Bradford, UK; a graduate Diploma in International Relations and Trade from the Australian National University, Canberra; and a B.A. in Public Administration and Political Science from the National University of Lesotho.



**UNRC Zambia:** Ms. Coumba Mar Gardio, UNRC Zambia

Coumba Mar Gardio began her appointment as UNRC Zambia on 3 May 2019. Prior to appointment, Ms. Coumba has worked for the United Nations for 18 years, serving in multiple functions and duty stations at both regional and country levels. Ms. Coumba served as the UNRC and UNDP Resident Representative in Equatorial Guinea (2015-2018); Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Republic of Mauritania (2010-2014); UNDP Programme Bureau for Development Policy as a Regional Gender Practice Leader (2008-2010); Chief of the Coordination Unit for the Sub Regional Resource Facilities (SURF) for West and Central Africa (2003-2008). Ms. Coumba holds a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology, M.A. in Women's studies from Ohio State University, and a *Maitrise in Social Science* from *Ecole des Hautes Etudes En Sciences Sociales* in Paris.

**Afreximbank:** Mr. Jean-Christian Koudou, Manager, Export Development Finance

As Manager, Export Development Finance, Jean-Christian Koudou is subject to structuring project finance transactions for the establishment of industrial parks, manufacturing facilities in Africa, development of world-class tourism infrastructure and healthcare facilities in various African countries. Furthermore, Mr. Koudou has over 13 years of banking experience in Africa (capital markets, corporate finance, SMEs financing and trade project finance) in which Mr. Koudou was responsible for advisory of project development (PPP projects), building international partnerships & strategic alliances and providing skillful cross-cultural, interpersonal and communications skills forged by academic and professional experiences in Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Nigeria, USA and France. Mr. Koudou holds a M.B.A in Finance and International Business.



**Eighth Ministerial Conference of the  
Least Developed Countries  
2 November 2019 – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

---

**Accelerating Industrialization in LDCs:**

---

**Round Table 4: Learning lessons from graduation paths and the way ahead**

**Key Issues**

Lessons from countries point to the importance of **good governance, human development, domestic capacity building, picking winners, modern services and diversified economic structure**. The task of replicating those good practices is a formidable challenge for other LDCs to graduate. Often, challenges are turned into opportunities with appropriate policy support and institutional direction.

- Revenues derived from natural resources are not efficiently channeled to the creation of the prerequisites for fostering a healthy pace of productive and related activities.
- Need for a strong analytical and policy foundation/vision to steer long term industrial development processes effectively.
- Technological efforts and capabilities are critical for keeping up with drastic changing facets of surviving in an internationally competitive environment. LDCs should be at it.
- Dynamic pathway is established by educational systems that continuously restructure on technical and vocational education providing growing pool of skilled workers and technicians, and fostering rapid expansion of engineering, business and computer education.

Key lessons from the graduation paths are: (i) good governance being the most determining factor in exploiting the natural resources of a country for the cause of fostering sustainable development; (ii) a unique blend of economic specialization and progress in human asset development



constituting an infinite source of wealth creation; and (iii) domestic capacity building, research and innovation triggering structural transformation away from low-productivity into higher-productivity manufacturing and modern services, leading to more diversified economies. The task of replicating those best practices on the path to graduation is a formidable challenge for many LDCs due largely to the fact that natural resource revenues are not sufficiently channeled into building human assets. Learning lessons from the above inferences is crucial to accept corrective steps on the graduation path.

Commodity booms have repeatedly offered a huge opportunity for countries that possess valuable natural resources. Many of these countries are currently very poor and the revenues generated from the boom are their best chance for transformative development. However, such opportunities have often not been seized in the past. Sometimes valuable resources have not been exploited because the conditions necessary for their cost-effective extraction were not met. More often, resources have been extracted but the resulting revenues have not been used effectively for sustained development.

Small countries with limited resource endowments often follow this path as the options are limited but the opportunities stemming from specialization are plenty. A dynamic pathway is underpinned by educational systems that are continually restructured, with an accent on technical and vocational education providing a growing pool of skilled workers and technicians, and fostering rapid expansion of engineering, business and computer education. Sustained efforts on strengthening the skill base can convert enclave type labor-intensive operations into horizontally integrated manufacturing, with ever increasing development of manufacturing-complimentary service activities on the pathway to graduation. The real issues pertains to the challenge of ensuring compatibility between those new industrial realities and national priorities aiming at lifting millions out of the clutches of poverty.



## Questions for interactive discussion:

In the light of the above issues, interactions during the round table sessions are expected to focus largely on the following questions:

- Are productivity catch-up and technological upgrading consistent with interventions aimed at creating sustainable sources of livelihoods for the vast majority of poor people living in the rural areas of LDCs?
- How to support innovative project ideas that harness the lessons learned from the implementation of technical cooperation projects.
- How to liberate resource-rich LDCs from the clutches of the “resource curse”?
- Can LDCs benefit from regional innovation systems within the framework of the newly created African Continental Free Trade Area through the geographical expansion of value addition to the commodity belts?
- What are the dangers of emulating best practices of successful LDCs in other LDCs without assessing the validity of those practices in other LDCs in the light of their country-specific context?