



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



AFRICA INDUSTRIALISATION WEEK, 16 – 20 November 2020 (virtual)
“Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA and COVID-19 era”

UNIDO Brussels Side Event

Thursday 19th November 2020, 12:15 – 13:45 (ECT)

Quality & Standards in the context of post-Covid recovery of African economies

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United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Quality & Standards in the context of post-Covid recovery of African economies

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French/English simultaneous
translation will be provided.



BACKGROUND

The UNIDO Brussels Office is organizing a webinar in the framework of the Africa Industrialization Week 2020 (AIW), on “Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA and COVID-19 era”.

Organized jointly between UNIDO and the African Union, the 2020 AIW will take place virtually, commemorated through a series of online events, from 16th to 20th November 2020. It aims to bring forth Africa’s renewed determination and commitment to Industrialization as one of the central pillars in attaining the continent’s economic growth and development goals as articulated in Agenda 2063.

In this framework, the objectives of UNIDO Brussels side event are to:

- Follow up on the **International QI Forum 2019**
- Contribute to the discussion in the framework of **AIW 2020**
- Reflect on concrete proposals to advance the **implementation of the AfCFTA in post-covid times**
- Share examples of projects in the field of **Quality Infrastructure and Standards**
- Advance the long-lasting and strategic partnership between **UNIDO** and organizations/institutions such as **European Union, the African Union, OACPS, and others**
- Reaffirm our respective **commitments to IDDAIII**

QI institutions in the AfCFTA and COVID-19 era, Where Are We Now?”

In April 2019, UNIDO hosted the **International Quality Infrastructure Forum** in Brussels. This event convened the international community of quality infrastructure governance bodies and quality infrastructure practitioners from Europe and Africa. It combined interventions from policy makers, technical experts, private sectors and developmental partners that assisted in setting the future scene for collaboration on QI. The Forum focused on best practices of quality infrastructure for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), and it looked at how sustainability standards can help the private sector achieve the SDGs.

The Forum also served to identify priority interventions for the development of quality infrastructure systems in support of the **Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016-2025 (IDDA III)**, proclaimed on 25 July 2016 through the UN General Assembly’s resolution 70/293. The main goal of IDDA III is to guide the efforts of the continent and its development partners towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. In the framework of this important decade, the **effective implementation of the AfCFTA** represents an ambitious challenge.

During the forum, the **role of a sound regional quality infrastructure in the rapid growth of intra-African trade** was indeed discussed. The first panel focused on « How to steer African regional quality infrastructure development towards the SDGs within the AfCFTA » and came to the conclusion that implementing the AfCFTA will require investment and capitalization in the process of developing Africa’s quality infrastructure institutions dealing with standardization, metrology and quality assurance. This has to take into account the global trading issues such as the technical barriers to trade and the standards harmonization and facilitation of mutually recognized conformity assessment results on the continent.

Conclusions also emphasised that strong partnerships between public, private, and financial institutions are vital to reach the SDGs by 2030.

For the European Union, supporting the accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA has been clearly identified as a priority. According to the declaration “Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa” (p8), the EU has indeed committed to boost regional and continental economic integration, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

During the International Quality Infrastructure Forum 2019, Stefano Manservigi, DG DEVCO Director General, also recognized that the **EU had a key role to play in supporting the AfCFTA**:

“What can the EU do? First to share our experience especially because after all, the EU has based its own history, its own existence precisely on integrating markets, [...] which are based on other value chains, on capacity of settings standards, on capacity of being competitive through these standards.” (Stefano Manservigi, Director General, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, DG DEVCO, European Commission, EC)

More recently, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen also expressed in her [State of the Union speech](#) her intention to work closely with Africa as a « key partner in building the world we want to live in – whether on climate, digital or trade ».

Both the European Commission and the African Union have in fact stressed the importance of the AfCFTA in the area of sustainable growth, trade, investment and digitalisation.

As expressed during the **10th European Union-African Union Commission-to-Commission** meeting held in Addis Ababa on 27 February 2020, they agreed to:

- Prioritise regional infrastructure.

- Maximise synergies between European and African private sectors and to promote the diversification of African economies.
- Improve domestic resource mobilisation and complement Africa's efforts to stop illicit financial flows.
- Enhance youth skills development and better match skills with the labour market.
- Contribute to rural transformation, sustainable growth and job creation.
- Enhance EU- Africa partnership on digital infrastructure and the single digital market.

In response to these high political ambitions UNIDO is actively contributing to the **concretization of these commitments**. As the specialized agency of the United Nations for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO is an expert in sustainable growth, job creation, digital infrastructures, and the diversification of African economies.

UNIDO’s experience has proven to be a great support in initiating the process of harmonising regional standards to enhance market accessibility for green products, while incentivizing the development of intra-African food value chains for enhanced job creation particularly for youth and women as well as ensuring food security.

Together with its public and private partners, UNIDO intends to put this expertise at the service of the AfCFTA.

Despite the **postponing of the EU-AU Summit to 2021**, we believe it is important to keep the discussion going between key strategic partners and strengthen our collaboration at both political and technical levels, especially in the **context of Covid19** that challenges the future of trade and the opportunities for inclusive and sustainable economic growth worldwide.

Participants

Participants to this open dialogue will include relevant stakeholders in Brussels (from African ambassadors, EU institutions, embassies, civil society organizations, public and private sectors) willing to reflect upon the role of Quality and Standards in advancing AfCFTA, share views and concrete ideas, and identify how a multi-stakeholder partnership can further enhance concrete opportunities for IDDAIII. All participants from the QI Forum in 2019 will be invited as well as African ambassadors in Brussels.

Topics of discussion

The dialogue intends to reiterate the **relevance of quality and standards and the role of the QI Institutions in a post-Covid context**, both in terms of risk minimization, assessment and security and in terms of the digital transformation of African economies. The relationship between QI institutions and changes in value chains shall be discussed as well as how new technologies are impacting Quality and Standards.

Against the backdrop of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), quality infrastructure (QI) has and will continue to play a significant role in the fight against the global pandemic. In particular, the QI institutions and services, - in the areas of quality and laboratory policy, standards, accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment, and enterprises – have a direct impact on mitigating the negative effects of Covid-19.

During these universally trying times caused by Covid-19, it is crucial to understand and discuss what QI institutions can do to mitigate the effects of the pandemic both during the crisis and post-crisis.

Given that the effects of Covid-19 will be felt long after countries have reached their peak in terms of number of infected, and after the number of infections have subsided, it is important that the effective and sustainable management of the crisis is focused on the long-term, establishes the necessary infrastructure and services, and results in positive behavior change.

The discussion could also touch upon the following topics, based on the interest and expertise of the speakers:

- The role of building sound quality infrastructure institutions in the context of the rapid growth of intra-African trade and the need for extensive investment, especially in times of post-covid recovery?
- The role of new technologies and digital tools for African economies?
- How to effectively support the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the key challenges associated with it?
- The importance of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their role in building a harmonized QI system?
- How to develop investment and capitalization in the process of developing Africa's QI institutions dealing with standardization, metrology and quality assurance?
- How to address the global trading issues such as the technical barriers to trade and the standards harmonization and facilitation of mutually recognized conformity assessment results on the continent?
- What concrete proposals in IDDA III context?



UNIDO Brussels Side Event

AGENDA

Date: 19th of November 2020

Time: 12:15 – 13:45 (ECT)

Moderator: **Mr. Patrick Gilabert**, Head, UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels and Representative to the EU and OACPS

Welcoming remarks: **Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento**, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business, UNIDO Headquarter

Keynote speech: **Dr. Elsie Meintjies**, Chief Technical Adviser, UNIDO in South Africa

Panelists:

- **Ms. Carla Montesi**, Director, Planet and Prosperity (DEVCO.C), Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
- **Mr. Escipi3n Joaqu3n Oliveira G3mez**, Assistant Secretary General, Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)
- **Dr. Eve Christine Gadzikwa**, Past President, African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)
- **Ms. Dorsaf Zangar Labidi**, Division Manager, Industrial Development Division, African Development Bank
- **Dr. Papa Demba Thiam**, Economist, Value Chains Based Industrial Development Expert
- **Dr. Ron Josias**, Chair, African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)

French/English simultaneous translation will be provided.

BIOGRAPHIES OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS



Mr. Patrick J. GILABERT, Ph.D

Head, UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels and Representative to the EU and OACPS

Mr. GILABERT is an economic development expert specialised in Asia and Africa. Prior to his appointment in Brussels, he was UNIDO deputy Representative to the UN in New York (2016-2018), and UNIDO Representative in Hanoi, Vietnam (2011-2016) and in Antananarivo, Madagascar (2007-2010) with coverage of the Union of Comoros, Seychelles, and Mauritius. Mr GILABERT started his career with UNIDO in Vietnam (1993), followed by investment promotion officer in Headquarters in Vienna (1996-2006). He also worked for Gemplus Electronics (France), and the French Trade Commission in Japan and Sri Lanka. Patrick holds a Ph.D in technology management (Aix-Marseille) complemented by the trium executive MBA (HEC Paris, London School of Economics, New York University Stren School of Business).



Dr. Bernardo CALZADILLA-SARMIENTO

Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business (DTA), UNIDO HQ

Dr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento is Managing Director of the Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business, and Director of the Department of Digitalization, Technology and Innovation, at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO. Previously, he has been Director for the Technical Assistance and Training at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). As Director of the Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation, Dr. Calzadilla has been leading the work on quality and standards for trade facilitation, investment for sustainable development and innovation in the context of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR). Dr. Calzadilla has held position in investment promotion, funds mobilization and social responsibility. With more than 25 years of international experience in global development, his involvement includes working in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Dr. Calzadilla holds a Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business (Austria).



Dr. Elsie MEINTJIES

Chief Technical Adviser, UNIDO in South Africa

Dr. Meintjies is the Chief technical Adviser of Unido South Africa. She was appointed to the SADC Secretariat in the Directorate Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment as Senior Programme Officer – Technical Barriers to Trade in July 2011 and has been dealing with issues of regional economic integration focussing particularly on the role of conformity assessment in the facilitation of trade. She has also been the Managing Director of the Botswana Bureau of Standards and SABS Certification (Pty) Ltd. Mrs Meintjies holds a PhD in Organometallic Chemistry from the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa and a Bachelor in Communication from the University of South Africa.



Ms. Carla MONTESI

Director, Planet and Prosperity (DEVCO.C), Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

Mrs. Montesi is currently Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation. She has been responsible for the Directorate "Planet and Prosperity" since September 2018. Before that (2014-2018) she was Director for Western and Central Africa. Prior to 2014, she was Director at the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Initially responsible for fisheries conservation, control and structural actions for the Mediterranean and Black Sea, she has piloted maritime policy as well as fisheries and funding for the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Landlocked Member States. Formerly a lawyer in Italy who specialised in European affairs at the College of Europe in Bruges, Mrs Montesi's earlier career encompassed diverse responsibilities in the field of EU external policy for development and cooperation both at Headquarters and in EU Delegations in Africa, as well as experience in the Cabinet of EU Commissioner Emma Bonino for External Policy and Humanitarian Affairs.



**Mr. Escipi3n Joaqu3n
OLIVEIRA GOMEZ**

**Assistant Secretary General,
Organisation of the African,
Caribbean and Pacific States
(OACPS)**

Mr. Oliveira Gomez is the Assistant Secretary General, Department of Structural Economic Transformation and Trade, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States since July 7th, 2020. Before joining the OACPS, he served as Deputy Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency and this since 2011. He also worked for Caribbean Export as “Manager of Special Projects” and “Manager of the 9th EDF Caribbean Trade and Private Sector Development Programme” (2008-2011). Mr Oliveira is a national of the Dominican Republic (DR) with 30 years of experience in drafting, managing, supervising, and evaluating multi-donor programs and projects for the creation and strengthening of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and Business Support Organisations in the six OACPS regions at national, regional and all-ACP levels. Mr Oliveira holds Master’s degree in Business Administration with a major in Finance (1994) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business (1992) from the Universit3e Catholique de Louvain (UCL) (Belgium).



**Dr. Eve Christine
GADSIKWA**

**Past President, African
Organisation for
Standardisation (ARSO)**

Dr. Gadsikwa has enjoyed an illustrious professional career, which spans over 25 years in the public and private sector as first female President of African Organisation for Standardisation that is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, for the period 2016-2019. Eve was appointed to her current executive position of Director General and Governance Champion (Board Company Secretary) of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe in September 2008. Dr. Gadsikwa has led a diverse team of professionals, represented her organization with distinction on national, regional and international platforms (ISO, SADC, COMESA, ARSO, IEEE and Continental Technical Standards Committees). Dr. Gadsikwa is a qualified and experienced medical laboratory pathology scientist (Med. Micro). Other leadership positions: Chair-IEEE-SA Africa 4IR Strategy Program (Collaboration with ARSO), ISO DEVCO Chairman’s Advisory Committee Member (2015-Current), National Code of Corporate Governance Trustee (2017-Current), Banc ABC Non-Executive Director (2015-Current).



**Ms. Dorsaf
ZANGAR LABIDI**

**Division Manager - Industrial
Development Division,
African Development Bank**

Ms. Dorsaf ZANGAR LABIDI joined the AfDB on November 1, 2019 as Manager of the Industrial Development Division whose role is to drive the Bank’s interventions through the implementation of programs to scale-up and accelerate industrial transformation in Africa, by supporting governments in adjusting their national industrial policies, identifying potential sectors for industrial development and investment, and providing support for value chain development.

She has a total of 25 years of national and international experience regarding the industrial development area. She previously, held the position of United Nations Representative for Industrial Development (UNIDO) in Tunisia where she managed several projects implemented by UNIDO in Tunisia.

Ms. Dorsaf Zangar Labidi also held the position of Chief Technical Advisor for UNIDO in Gabon for 3 years, she was able to supervise the Quality Infrastructure Program covering seven Central African countries, she also worked as UNIDO expert within the framework of the cooperation program for the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC).

Ms. Dorsaf Zangar Labidi is an engineering degree holder in the electrical engineering field, from the Ecole Nationale d’ing3nieurs de Tunis /National School of Engineers of Tunis (ENIT) and also an engineering degree holder in Quality and metrology right from Ecole des Mines de Douai / School of Mines of Douai in France.



**Dr. Papa Demba
THIAM**

**Economist, Value Chains
Based Industrial
Development Expert**

Dr. Thiam is a Professor, researcher, investor and private entrepreneur for value chains development before working as an international expert serving the Swiss and German governments, Dr. Papa Demba Thiam was successively Products and Markets Development Coordinator , projects director for private sector and trade development for ACP countries (Africa Caribbean Pacific) in liaison with the European Commission, international consultant to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and to the European Commission, International civil servant at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and lead competitiveness economist at the Sahel and West Africa Club. From May 2003 to October 2016, Dr. Thiam worked as international civil servant at the World Bank before leaving this last institution on early retirement. He is currently developing operational and advisory products and services in the area of strategic Public-Private Partnerships on value chains to support local resource-based industrial development in Africa, including the development of urban industrial agglomerations and integrated economic clusters that are linked to national economies such as multi-purpose industrial parks and integrated agro-industrial parks among others. Dr. Thiam authored many publications in the areas on economic integration, manufacturing poverty and multilateralism. He christened innovative approaches to resilient inclusive growth with his “interface strategies for value chains based industrial development” published in 1991 by Peter Land Editions, Bern, Switzerland.



Dr. Ron JOSIAS

**Chair, African Accreditation
Cooperation (AFRAC)**

Mr. Josias is the Chair of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). Mr Josias previously served as Chair of AFRAC from October 2012 to September 2016. As a founding member of AFRAC, Mr Ron Josias, the CEO of SANAS together with other key role players realised the need for a strong African voice within the international Accreditation fora, and ever since, has been instrumental in the establishment of strong and purpose driven leadership for AFRAC, culminating in the international recognition of AFRAC MRA. Mr Josias also acts as the Regional Coordinator and manages the AFRAC Secretariat. He is an ILAC Executive Committee Member, ILAC Arrangement Council Member, and the Chair of the SADCA MRA Committee. Mr Josias holds MPhil in International Management (University of Pretoria), MBA (Masters in Business Administration - University of Wales), National Higher Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (T4 - Peninsula Technikon), Certificate in Foundation of Corporate Coaching (University of Cape Town). Mr. Josias hold a PhD in Public Administration, MBA and Mphil in International Management and a National Higher Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.





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