

## Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

**03 - 05 March 2022**  
**Venue: Kigali, Rwanda**

### Side Event Concept Note

<b>Side Event Title</b>	Industrializing Africa: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrialization and Economic Diversification
<b>Date</b>	01 March 2022
<b>Lead entity (main organizer)</b>	ECA/RITD
<b>Partner entities (Collaborating organizers)</b>	AUC, UNIDO
<b>Contact person at Lead organizer (name, email, phone)</b>	Souleymane Abdallah <a href="mailto:abdallahs@un.org">abdallahs@un.org</a> +227 96968896
<b>Desired/Expected outcomes from the Side Event</b>	This event is set to discuss the key elements that should shape Africa's industrialization agenda in the nearest future. The symbiotic relationship between trade and industrial development will be emphasized, more importantly with the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The need to remind ourselves of the mandate of the AU with respect to the establishment of AfCFTA and Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) will also be discussed.
<b>Context: Background and Rationale</b>	<p>“Industrializing Africa: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrialization and Economic Diversification” draws our attention and reminds us of the urgent need to promote and ensure structural transformation of Africa. The theme is apt on many fronts, two of which are: (i) building back responsibly during COVID-19 period and (ii) keeping track on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. The COVID-19, a global pandemic, has not only drawn attention to or re-echo the urgent need to accelerate industrial development of the continent but also pointed out the importance of regional integration especially in the areas of the development of regional value chains (RVCs), transportation, communication and logistics. In the process of rebuilding, Africa various elements of SDGs, climate change Agenda, and other related global programmes should not be neglected.</p> <p>Hence, post-COVID-19 Africa's industrialization Agenda must promote inclusiveness (that is, fostering pro-poor growth and development such that no one is left behind; promoting gender equity and reducing unemployment) and sustainability (addressing economic, social and environmental concerns).</p>



<p><b>How is the Outcomes of this Session expected to contribute to advancing Africa's resolve and determination on Africa-Industrialization and Economic Diversification</b></p>	<p>The meeting aims to build an overall momentum towards industrialisation agenda in Africa which is anticipated to gain significant impetus following the ARFSD. The event will take stock of the ongoing initiatives and discuss approaches to value chain development and economic diversification on the continent</p> <p>In particular, the event will contribute to the crafting of policies that support the inclusive and sustainable development of regional value chains in Africa in the AFCTA era. It will define important steps to be taken for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• taking stock of current regional value chain development in Africa,</li> <li>• choosing (existing or emerging) priority regional value chains for development action,</li> <li>• informing about industrialization and RVC development policy options, to guide continental, regional and member state level choices,</li> <li>• forging partnerships and allegiances to foster RVC development in Africa to leverage opportunities that arise from AfCFTA, with an active integration of MSMEs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Participants (Who is targeted)</b></p>	<p>Policy makers at national, regional and continental level, leaders in the public and private sectors, development and funding partners, academia,</p>
<p><b>Event agenda - Names of speakers at side-event</b></p>	<p>Welcome remarks: Stephen Karingi, Director RITD/ECA, UNIDO representative Opening: Director Trade and Industry, AUC</p> <p>Keynote “<b>Industrializing Africa: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrialization and Economic Diversification</b>” by Prof. Wale Ogunkola, University of Ibadan</p> <p>Plenary discussion</p> <p>Closing, tbc</p> <p>Moderation: tbc</p>
<p><b>Session duration</b></p>	<p>1 hour 30 minutes</p>
<p><b>Supporting documents</b></p>	<p>Background paper on Industrializing Africa: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrialization and Economic Diversification</p>
<p><b>To be submitted to the Organisers immediately after the Session</b></p>	
<p><b>Key takeaway messages coming out of the Session (based on actual discussions)</b></p>	