



## SIDE EVENT

Saturday, 20 March, 11:30am -12:30pm, EAT

# Making the Fourth Industrial Revolution works for Africa

### Background and Rationale

The Covid-19 pandemic has reached almost every country globally and has harmed the environment, society, and economy. However, the ongoing pandemic also represents an opportunity to accelerate collaborative solutions to international development issues, primarily through advanced technologies and digitalisation. Digitalisation, particularly, demonstrated to have considerable potential for increasing productivity and efficiency, but it also raises important challenges to social inclusion and accessibility. Currently, 88 economies (including those in most African countries) have little or no involvement in advanced innovation, be it as consumers or producers. In 2019, the number of technology hubs across the continent grew 40% to reach more than 600. However, the proportion of total manufacturing value-added from the medium and high-tech industry in Africa seldom surpasses 30 per cent. This side event will discuss how the 4IR could transform Africa's economy, increase its productivity and enhance its global and regional trade, particularly in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

### Tentative Programme

The session will discuss the role of digitalisation for promoting Africa's sustainable industrialisation. This panel will examine initiatives and different approaches for adopting digital technologies in Africa and pinpoint critical elements for

developing and instrumentalising the Digital Transformation strategy for Africa (2020-2030) to advance the 4IR in the region within the framework of the AfCFTA.

Opening Remarks	(5 min.)	Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agribusiness, UNIDO
Keynote Address	(10 min.)	Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda (TBC)
Fireside Chat moderated by MD DTA Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento	(40 min.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, New Partnership for Africa's Develop- ment (NEPAD) Agency (tbc)</li><li>• Ms. Amani Abou-Zeid, Infrastructure, Energy, ICT and Tourism Commissioner, African Union (TBC)</li><li>• Ms. Fatoumata Ba de Janngo, Managing Partner, Janngo Capital (TBC)</li></ul>
Conclusions Remarks	(5 min.)	Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agribusiness, UNIDO

### FOCAL POINT

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