

**CONCEPT NOTE**  
***Launch of 2019 African Economic Outlook***  
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## **1. Background**

The African Development Bank is launching the African Economic Outlook 2019 in Abidjan. The African Economic Outlook is the Bank's premier flagship report, which aims to provide evidence-based knowledge on a wide range of issues and challenges confronting African economies. The thematic focus of the 2019 Report is "Regional integration for economic prosperity", which delves into this area of great importance to Africa's development.

## **2. Input (African Economic Outlook)**

The 2019 edition of the African Economic Outlook brings into sharp focus the short-term economic outlook for the continent as well as each of the 54 countries, while discussing tailwinds and headwinds. Furthermore, the report looks at firms' dynamics and employment creation in Africa. This focus is especially vital in view of the evidence that Africa's rate of growth has not been sufficiently transformative, particularly in creating quality jobs and reducing poverty and inequality. Finally, the Report also highlights Africa's achievements in terms of regional integration, the challenges ahead, while providing relevant policy recommendations.

## **3. Objectives and expected outputs**

The objectives of the launch of the 2019 African Economic Outlook are to, inter alia:

- Present the findings of the 2019 African Economic Outlook Report.
- Provide a platform for a policy discussion and information exchange on areas covered in the report that are critical to Africa's structural transformation and inclusive growth.
- Disseminate the findings of the report to a wide range of stakeholders including high level policymakers, the media, global and regional development organizations, civil society, academia and the wider public.

The following additional outputs are expected:

- Web broadcast of the presentations, e.g. via YouTube.
- Press coverage and articles.
- A short report summarizing key areas of debate, consensus or recommendations.

## **4. Rationale**

The expected benefits of this launch could be assessed from various perspectives.

First, the event is appealing to the high-level policymakers who are interested in a forum where critical economic issues facing their governments (macroeconomic management, sources of growth, job creation, and regional integration) will be presented and discussed in a practical manner.

Second, this event will prepare the ground for engaging in a multi-stakeholder constructive policy dialogue between the African Development Bank and their member countries. This will also be an opportunity to explore a deeper partnership between the Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting and Research Department of the African Development Bank and the Regional Members Countries.

## **5. Target audience**

Target participants in the event include high-level invitees from the Diplomatic corps (delegation heads, ministers, ambassadors) but also the media, global and regional development organizations, civil society, academics and the wider public.

## **6. Date and Format**

The proposed date for the event is **17 January 2019 from 11.30 to 13.30 at Auditorium Babacar N'diaye, Headquarters African Development Bank.**

The format of the launch event is a panel discussion with welcoming remarks by President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina, the VP and Chief Economist of the African Development Bank, and a short PowerPoint presentation by the Director of Research on key messages of the report.

Selected high-level speakers will share their perspectives on appropriate mechanisms to foster regional integration and, policies needed to spur economic growth and create jobs in their respective countries.

The event will have additional room for observers, but the initial debate will be limited to the panelists, opening the debate to broader participation during Q&A session in the last 30 minutes of the event.

The total duration of the event will be 2 hours.

## **7. Organizers**

- African Development Bank, Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting and Research Department.