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Directorate of Information and Communication

MEDIA ADVISORY

9th AUC-DTI Industry STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS RETREAT

Theme: “The Readiness of Industrialization, and Its Productive Capacity for the Start of Trade on 1st January 2020 By The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”.

- 1.1. **What:** The 9th AUC-DTI Industry Strategic Stakeholders Retreat. The goal is to strategically discuss how to strengthen partnerships and agree on joint work plans for 2021 and beyond as well as to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Partners and RECs on the continent’s Industrialization Agenda and collectively prepare the Summit on Industrialization and Economic Transformation scheduled to be held in Niamey, Niger in November 2021.

When: 16-17th December 2020

Time: **Day 1:** 09:00 – 17:30 (GMT+3)
Day 2: 09:00 – 13:00 (GMT+3)

Where: Zoom virtual Platform

Who: The Industry Division of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Objectives:

- Reviewing the activities implemented by the Industry Division in 2020 including milestones made; and challenges;
- Review what the RECs and other development partners have done in 2020 in the area of industrialization;
- Explore areas of mutual interest with the stakeholders and identify areas of cooperation;
- Identify bottlenecks for industrialization on the continent and how these can be addressed going forward;
- Sustain the momentum this far as a build-up to effectively host the Summit on Africa Industrialization and Economic Diversification in 2021.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Ron Osman Omar, Officer in Charge Industry Division, Department for Trade and Industry, Email: OmarR@africa-union.org

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Participants:

The participants of the AUC/RECs strategic retreat will be drawn from a multi-stakeholder base from Member States, RECs, UN agencies, private sector including financial institutions, this subset of participants are actively involved in the industrialization and the establishment of the AfCFTA programmes on the continent.

The stakeholders have been deliberately chosen to enrich knowledge exchange on the subject of industrialization on the continent, whilst at the same time creating opportunities for partners to effectively engage across the Africa Industrialization Agenda.

Notes to Editors:

Over the years, the Division has been organizing stakeholder retreats that have brought together industrial policymakers from AUC, International Development Organizations including, UN agencies, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and member states. They have provided a platform for key stakeholders to exchange knowledge on key programming areas that include industrialization, to enhance the Division's capacity to leverage counterparty agency capacity to effectively deliver their mandate. It has also provided a platform where ideas have been shared on how the continent can forge ahead with the industrialization drive.

The momentum in the ratification of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which is aimed at boosting intra-African Trade, requires among others for the continent to look at the supply-side and hence industrialization is pivotal. The AfCFTA will create a big market for African manufactured goods given an estimated market value of US\$3 trillion, and a consumer base of 1.2 billion, thus unleashing opportunities for scale economies in the continent.

Media Enquiry:

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