

AFRICAN UNION

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AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY

20th ORDINARY SESSION

10 - 14 JUNE, 2013

NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AIDE-MÉMOIRE

ACCELERATING INDUSTRIALIZATION FOR AFRICA WITHIN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



1. Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) report 2012 indicates that both the rate of poverty and the absolute number of poor in Africa declined during 1990-2008. However, halving income poverty by 2015 requires a dramatic turnaround in the economies of Africa. Recent studies show that the per capita growth rate needed in sub-Saharan Africa to halve income poverty is 3.8 per cent on average. Many African countries need annual GDP per capita growth rates of 2 to 6 per cent to reach the income poverty reduction by 2015. The least developed African countries are those which face the greatest challenges in terms of required growth rates. They have been making the slowest progress towards the income poverty goal—when they have not actually been slipping away from it. In many Member States, the MDG growth required greatly exceeds the best growth rates they have achieved in the recent past.

In focusing on end objectives, the MDG framework provided little guidance on how to address the root causes of poverty and unmet basic need. The MDGs also did not adequately address issues of productive investment and employment, which have caused setback in MDG achievement. Until recently, donor community and bilateral aid agencies focused almost exclusively on the human development objectives represented by the MDGs. Most poverty reduction strategies of the aid architecture in low-income countries seldom focused on growth, industrial development and infrastructure. Nevertheless, bridging the gap between actual growth and the growth required for achieving the MDGs must come from dynamic sources of growth.

Therefore, to achieve sustainable growth, Africa must move from resource-based economies towards manufacturing-based economies through the industrial transformation of its natural resources. Furthermore, demographic transition and policies to create manufacturing and service jobs for the young generation will be needed to close the gap in growth and create the jobs needed to reduce poverty. Growth strategies for the future should give immediate priority to dealing with the unemployment and support productive activities that create full employment and decent work.

In order to tackle these issues in the post-2015 development agenda, there are many critical aspects and challenges that need to be addressed, including the need for increased support for inclusive industrial development agenda in Africa, combining the diversification of production with increased resource-use efficiency and incentives for productive investment and use of green production. There is therefore an urgent need to find new development pathways that encourage creativity and innovation in the pursuit of an inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth and development. Such an effort must be matched by reshaping the global partnership for development to support implementation and to ensure effective accountability mechanisms at all levels.

During the 4th Bureau Meeting of the 19th Conference of African Ministers of industry CAMI-19 held on 23rd November 2012, in Vienna, Austria, the Bureau agreed to organize the 20th Conference of African Ministers of industry (CAMI-20) under the theme “Accelerating Industrialization for Africa within the post 2015 Development Agenda”. The proposed theme for CAMI-20 aims to provide a more growth focused approach and solid foundation for addressing Africa’s present and future development challenges. The

outcome of the Conference will be used to provide guidance to international and national policymaking in shaping the post-2015 UN development agenda, create an enabling environment to meet shared objectives and support global solutions to Africa's challenges.

2. Objectives of the Conference

The purpose of CAMI-20 is to bring together AU Ministers of Industry, African experts in industrial development and African industrialists, African Private Sector, Academia, UN agencies and NGOs and other relevant development partners to brainstorm on some of the key issues for African industrial development within the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The meeting will provide guidelines for policy orientation and coherence within Post-2015 Development Framework, and highlight Africa's industrialization as a key factor for the development process of the continent. Particular emphasis will be put on support for the implementation of the Strategy for the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA), production diversification, decent job creation, energy production for industrial development and technology transfer.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference will serve as inputs for the preparation of the draft declaration. Specific objectives of CAMI-20 will include:

- Discussion and adoption of a Declaration on Accelerating Industrialization for Africa within the post 2015 Development Agenda through building productive capacities and promoting diversification from natural resources to manufactured products in Africa.
- Agreeing on major initiatives and activities that would contribute to the implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA).

3. Areas of Emphasis

In the course of the deliberations, a number of critical issues will be highlighted including:

- Importance of AIDA as a Continental Industrial Strategy and its Implementation within the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- Importance of technology transfer, capacity-building and international cooperation for sustainable development.
- Importance of regional integration and cooperation with regard to industrial development through formulation of necessary regional policies and action plans.

4. Themes to be discussed

CAMI-20 will be organized around the following broad issues, namely:

- Long-term financing for African industrialization ;
- Capacity building, Research, Development, and Innovation for Industrialization;
- Promotion of private sector entrepreneurship and SMI development for sustainable employment and economic empowerment of women and youth;
- Promotional of green and renewable energy development and cleaner production for industrialization and sustainable development.

In addition to the above, two side events will be held namely: “AU-EU-UNIDO high level Conference on Industrial Cooperation and “South-South Industrial Cooperation”. The outcomes from these side events will contribute to the overall conference outcomes.

5. Outcomes and Outputs of the Conference

Expected outcomes and outputs of the CAMI-20 include the following:

- Development/Establishment of a Common position on Africa’s Industrial Development within Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- A draft Declaration on Accelerating Industrialization for Africa within the post 2015 Development Agenda”;
- Agreement on resource mobilization efforts for the implementation of AIDA
- Enhanced understanding of AIDA and its implications for African socio-economic development, and
- Agreement on the way forward

The outcome of the Conference will be submitted to the upcoming AU Summit of Heads of States and Governments for consideration and adoption.

6. Programme

The draft agenda of CAMI-20 is attached hereto (annex I).

7. Organizers

The CAMI-20 is organized by the African Union Commission, the CAMI Bureau and UNIDO and is hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kenya.

8. Participation

The Conference will be attended by AU Ministers of Industry, Senior Industry officials, RECs, partner organizations, and AUC and UNIDO officials. Participant confirmations

should be received at the latest by **15 May, 2013**. To facilitate communications and correspondences, full details of participants should be obtained including full names, titles, positions, organizations, and contact addresses, such as telephone, fax numbers and e-mail addresses.

All delegations/participants are requested to send confirmation of their participation to the Conference organizers (see contact details on the next page).

- 9. Date:** 10– 14 June 2013
- 10. Venue:** Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC)
Nairobi, Kenya
- 11. Languages:** English, French, Arabic and Portuguese

13. Financial Arrangements

UNIDO will cover DSA and cost of economy class air-ticket based on a most direct and economical route to Nairobi for **one** delegate **from each** participating AU Member State. Details of nominated delegates should reach UNIDO by **15 May, 2013** latest.

All other expenses relating to medical, insurance, hospitalization travel, loss/damage to personal property and other expenses incurred by participants will be borne by their respective country or organization.

14. Travel Arrangements

All participants will be responsible for their own travel and visa arrangements. It is essential that all participants make their travel and visa arrangements latest by **30 May 2013**.

15. Hotel arrangements

All conference delegates, apart from Ministers, should make their own accommodation arrangements. A list of hotels together with contact numbers is attached in the Appendix. Each participant should inform the host Government (Republic of Kenya) and the Organizers of his/her, flight details and expected time of arrival in Kenya.

The Kenyan Government will provide transport (shuttle) for the delegates, to and from their respective hotels during the duration of the conference.

16. Registration on line

For further information and registration online, please visit the conference website:

<http://www.cami.go.ke>

17. Direct contact person and registration:

CAMI-20 Conference Delegates Registration

Registration Secretariat Desk

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