

AFRICAN UNION

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Press Release

**THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION HOSTED A SUCCESSFUL A HIGH LEVEL  
STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT ROUND TABLE ON THE ACCELERATED  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICA (AIDA)**



**Abuja, Nigeria, 07 August 2018** – The African Union Commission (AUC) is currently holding a High Level Stakeholders Engagement Round Table on the Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Reporting system. AIDA is a continental strategy for industrial development that was endorsed by the HOGs in 2008, and has been under implementation by member states. The Round Table Session, which runs the period 7-9 August, 2018 is a maiden initiative

by the Department of Trade and Industry to enhance awareness of AIDA and its attendant governance framework to strengthen implementation of the programme. This follows the successful setting up of the Implementation and Coordination Unit (ICU) in the Department of Trade and Industry, a technical unit set up in May 2018 with financial support from UNIDO, with responsibility to oversee, and coordinate the implementation of AIDA and other pan-African industrialisation frameworks such as Africa Mining Vision.

In addition, the session will provide a platform to re-orient the key stakeholders that include Regional Economic Communities, private sector, public sector, and Development partners towards rejuvenating momentum to implement AIDA. The AIDA initiative fosters developed to enhance integration of industrialization in national development policies, especially in poverty alleviation strategies, development and implementation of an industrial policy with priority accorded to maximizing the use of local productive capacities and inputs and strengthening of capital and financial markets (including innovative financial intermediaries) as well as improvement of business finance, especially for small-scale and rural industries.

In his statement, Mr. Hussein Hassan, Head of Industry Division, after he welcomed the participants, recalled the objectives of the Round Table and highlighted that the key output of the session is to generate a functioning and effective governance framework for AIDA. “We hope to deliver on these strategic issues in the next two days and a delivery model adopted for the session that is highly interactive is hoped to help us get to our destination, that is an effective implementation of AIDA to anchor the continent’s economic structural transformation through industrialization” He noted.

Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief of African Division at United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) stressed the fact that much need to be done to support Africa’s industrial development taking into account various other frameworks and initiatives including the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 9 in particular) (2015) and the Third Industrial Development for Africa (IDDA III) 2016. “UNIDO stands ready to continue its long standing partnership with the African Union Commission through the new MOU signed between our two institutions in Kigali in the margins of the AfCTFA launch in March 2018 as well as through the Implementation Coordination Unit which has been established with support from UNIDO” he said.

The Session was graced by the Commissioner of Industry and Private Sector Promotion of ECOWAS, H.E. Mr. Mamoudu TRAOURE, who welcomed the participants to the Capital City of Nigeria and highlighted the importance of industrial development in Africa. He added that ECOWAS is committed to work closely with the AUC in the implementation of program and projects of AIDA and also to support AIDA to industrialize Africa. He then officially declared the meeting open.

Mr. Rongai Chizema, Chief Technical Advisor & Head of ICU gave a brief Presentation on “Africa: Landmark Industrialization Initiatives, lessons learnt, pitfalls, opportunities and prospects”. **Link for the presentation.**

The meeting is being attended by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), AFREXIMBANK and Industry Association of SADC Chamber of Commerce and other members of Industry associations.

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