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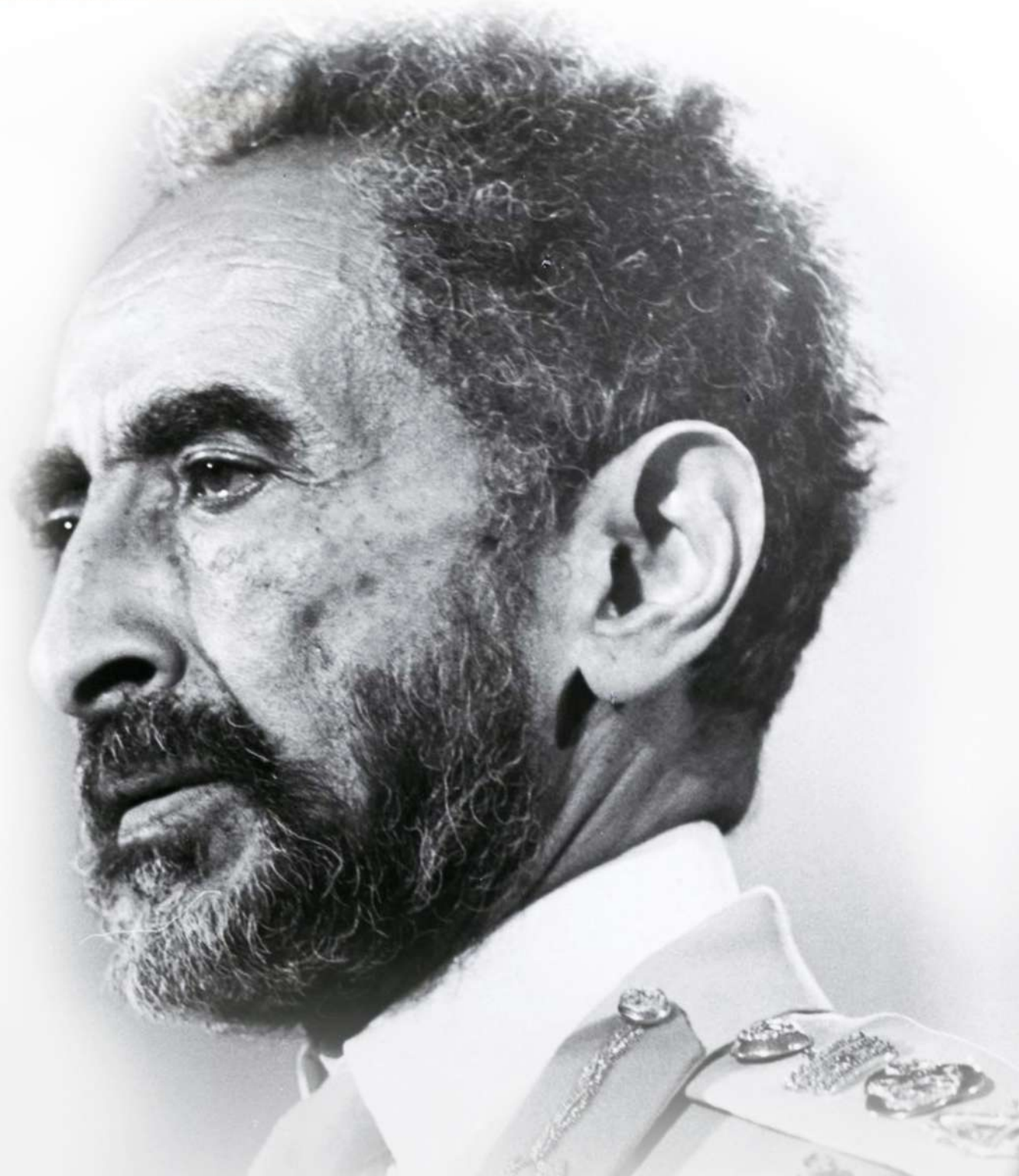
**THE INDISPENSABLE
BUT OFTEN NEGLECTED
ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE
BLUE ECONOMY**

**THE FUTURE OF
INDUSTRIALISATION
ON THE CONTINENT**

**LEVERAGING REGIONAL
INDUSTRIALISATION
STRATEGIES**

**THE 2020 AFRICA
INDUSTRIALISATION
WEEK IN RECAP**



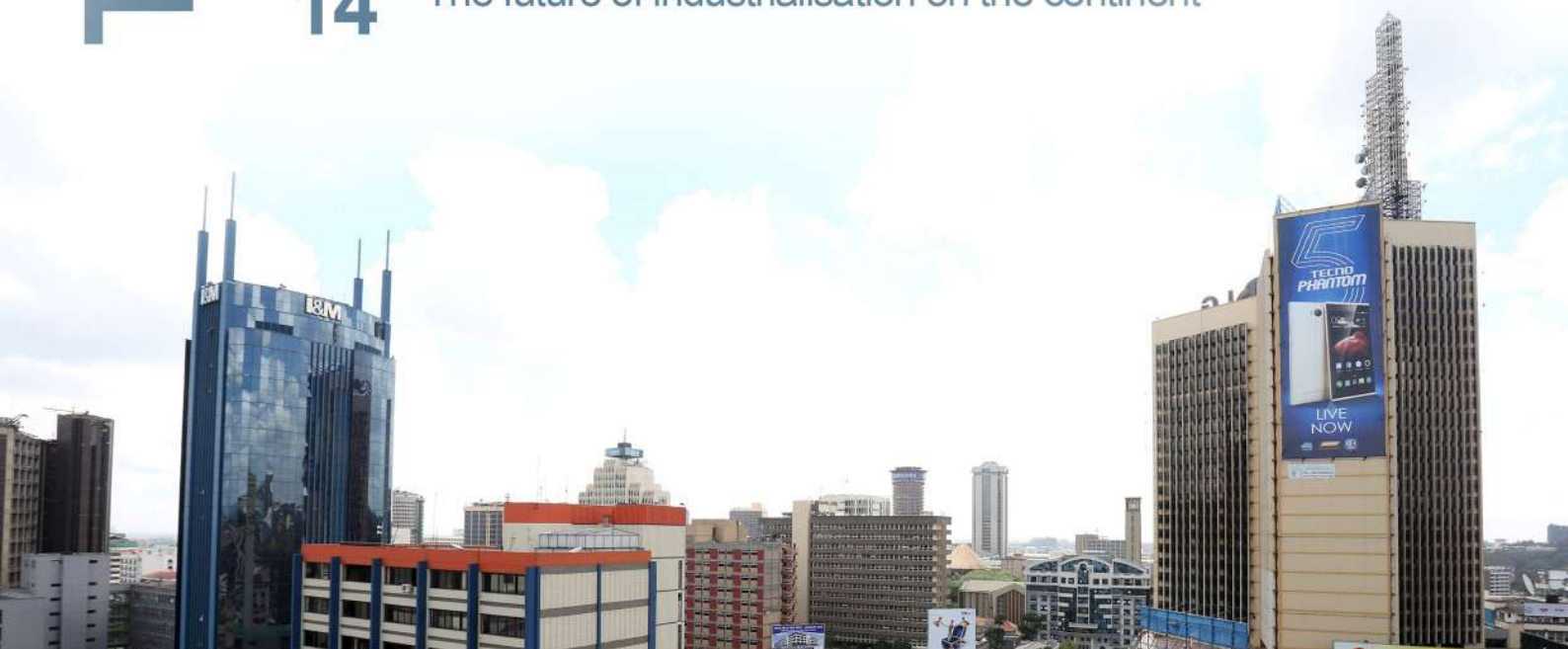


“ A man who says “I have learned enough and will learn no further” should be considered as knowing nothing at all. ”

H. I. M. Haile Selassie I
Emperor of Ethiopia 1930 -1974

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The indispensable but often neglected role of women in the blue economy



Photo credit: UN Photo/Tobin Jones

A ccording to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), women represent 585,100 of those working in the fisheries sector and 33,100 in the aquaculture sector in Africa, or 11% of those involved in these value chains. They therefore contribute signifi-

cantly to food security, livelihoods and household incomes in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. However, their contributions are often not sufficiently recognised. The great majority of these women are employed in post-harvest such as processing, sales, distribution and marketing. In South Africa for example, women are mostly engaged as employees in fish processing estab-

ishment across the country with the exception of few individuals engaging as fish farmers- an evidence of difficulties encountered by women in breaking through the industry.

Among the many obstacles faced by women in the industry, we have limited access to capital/funding, limited participation of women traders and producers in policy decision, high costs of fish production, limited information sharing on prices, markets, training and educational opportunities amongst others. In addition to these, the work of women is often undervalued and usually receives less pay for the same work as compared to their male counterparts. On the other hand, family responsibilities limit their potential in taking full advantages of the opportunities in the sector. For women to make a difference in the industry, collective action is a critical enabler in addressing gender inequality and also facilitating necessary reforms of oppressive norms and practices. Therefore, an organisation of women involved in the fisheries and aquaculture sector will pave a way for their greater engagement in the management of resources and will provide a conduit for collaborating with decision-makers.

The need for establishing a continental network of women fish processors and traders as a mechanism to promote intra African fish trade, first emerged in 2016 as a recommendation from participants at a food safety training workshop facilitated by the African Union through the EU-funded Fish Trade Project. Overtime, this need has grown even stronger leading to the decision by industry colleagues on the 21st of May 2020 to set up the South African Network for Women in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector (SANWFA). The objective of which, to contribute to improving operational production and productivity, access to markets, the welfare, working conditions and income for women in the fisheries and aquaculture value chain in South Africa.

South African women are not near full capacity on participation in fisheries and aquaculture activities due to a number of challenges which include lack of skills and resources. There has been a number of initiatives by both public and private sectors to address those yet there is still a lot more to be done in order to fully realise the potential of women participation. More on the SANWFA will be available in our next editions.

AUDA-NEPAD and JICA concert on the future of development cooperation

The high-level engagement, which took place from the 24th to the 26th of November between the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had as main objective of this annual consultative conference is to discuss the progress made and future plans for further cooperation. Amongst other things, the conference aims specifically at:

- Sharing an overview of 2020 COVID-19 response and the way forward for each organization for 2021.
- Reviewing each program and adopting program specific action plans for 2021 especially, as far as Kaizen (a comprehensive knowledge that consists of broad technologies to pursue quality, productivity, and managerial capabilities) and Infrastructure are concerned.
- Discussing next steps towards the achievement of Home-Grown Solution Initiative (HGS). More details on this can be found on vol. 005 of the Footprint Report

<https://www.nepad.org/publication/auda-nepad-impact-report-volume-5-24-november-2020>

- Pursuing possibilities of cooperation between AUDA-NEPAD Think tank and JICA research institute.

With the believe that, private sector development is one of the key factors for industrialisation,

creation of employment and decent work, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has since the late 2000s, implemented several projects for private sector development in Africa leading up to the adoption of Kaizen (a comprehensive knowledge that consists of broad technologies to pursue quality, productivity, and managerial capabilities). *“Kaizen Handbook 1” assumes that, Kaizen contributes to enhance “firm capabilities”,* which is regarded as a factor essential to the innovation process. In order to further accelerate the dissemination of these activities and impact throughout the continent, JICA and AUDA-NEPAD launched *“Africa Kaizen Initiative (AKI)”* in 2017 with 4 key strategies; Advocating at Policy Level, Creating and Strengthening the Function of Centre of Excellence, Standardizing Kaizen in Africa and, Networking with Kaizen Promoting Institutions around the World. So far 25 countries, over 280,000 people, and over 18,000 enterprises have benefited from Kaizen in Africa. More details on Kaizen can be accessed on Vol. 004 of the Footprint Report at

<https://www.nepad.org/publication/auda-nepad-impact-report-volume-4-november-2020>

Leveraging Regional Industrialisation Strategies

Held during the Africa Industrialisation Week from the 16th to the 20th of November 2020, this event had as objective to regroup key stakeholders to discuss possibilities of leveraging regional industrialisation strategies and plans towards enhancing continental strategic policy frameworks. With keynote speakers including Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, Director, Programme Delivery and Coordination AUDA-NEPAD, Dr. Kemji Ajoku, Industry Division ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), Ms. Providence Mavubi - Director, Industry and Agriculture Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and, Mr. Jean Baptiste Havugimana-East African Community (EAC), the event was a great opportunity to discuss issues related to the future of industrialisation on the continent. Speaking during the occasion, Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, Director, Programme Delivery and Coordination AUDA-NEPAD highlighted amongst other things:

- The need to create an enabling environment and adopt policies aimed at driving the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and promoting our SMMEs as the drivers of Industrialisation and economic growth.
- The need to drive for regional integration which is pertinent, with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) playing a major role in mobilizing Member States to ensure successful implementation of the AfCFTA.
- The need to enhance competitiveness in global trading which starts within our own borders/region, consolidation and policy harmonization
- The need to work towards a continental industry policy framework that, will drive economic, cultural transformation, integration for global trade, global production and supply chain networks.
- The need to work together to streamline RECs adoption of sectoral harmonisation of policies which may address issues of overlapping membership etc.
- The need to ensure trust and collaboration between governments, private sector and citizens.
- The need to work towards promoting SMMEs as the drivers of industrialisation and development and help them for formalize themselves and offer incentives to do so then, create enabling policies for them to formalize.
- The need to create and development economic clusters and special economic zones as they drive investment, innovation, and strength of the key supply chain and reduce our dependency on global supply value chains.

“Issues that must be addressed to promote industrial development include taking advantage of the shift in the global economy and moving up the global value chain. COVID-19 has shown our dependence on external value chains putting us



*H.E. Ambassador Albert Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry.
Photo credit: unido.org*

at high risk of economic downfall, food insecurity, low access to medical supplies, low access to spare parts for industries, cars etc.” He added. Providence Mavubi - Director, Industry and Agriculture, COMESA added,

“The purpose AfCFTA to facilitate free movement of goods and services within the continent. This comes with tariff and non- tariff barriers removal and the goods and services traded should be produced within the continent. Most

RECs including COMESA have developed their Regional Strategy and Industrialisation plans derived from those of their member states. These can be harmonized to come up with a continental industrial Strategy to help implementation of the AfCFTA. COMESA also adopted the Industrial Strategy and Action Plan, the MSME Strategy and the COMESA local content policy Framework all aimed at promoting industrialisation in the region. The COMESA treaty encourages Member States to

cooperate in industrial development to achieve objectives included in the COMESA Regional Industrialisation Strategy.”

“The continent can set joint ventures, utilizing complimentary joint resources from different countries thereby creating national, regional and continental value chains such as value addition, skills, technology, marketing and capacity building. Priorities comparative advantage include, agriculture sector, agroindustry, mining and mineral processing, fertilizer and pharmaceutical industry, textile, forestry, knowledge generation and sharing among others,” she said.

Africa industrialisation efforts this far have encountered a number of difficulties which if addressed, could assist the continent in meeting up with development objectives setup in Agenda 2063. George Murumba- Head of Industrialisation Policy and Development Unit, (AUDA-NEPAD) highlighted some of these key issues to be addressed during the event to include:

- Insufficient infrastructure and connectivity to enable trade facilitation and regional integration.
- Lack of and failure to implement industrialisation policies that enable industrialisation development and trade.
- Lack of human capital development, technology, skills, creativity and innovation.
- Lack of access to reliable data that is critical for analysis.
- The need for Member States to adopt service-oriented and smokestacks industries as diversification into tradable services is imminent.

- The creation of enabling policies that respond to the specific and dynamic needs of the continent.

- Using the opportunities created by COVID-19 to industrialise



The 2020 Africa Industrialisation Week in recap

The Africa Industrialisation Week 2020 (AIW 2020) held under the theme Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation in the AfCFTA (Africa Continental Free Trade Area) Era,” was successfully hosted from 16th to 20th November 2020. Hosted against the backdrop of the major landmark Decision of the Africa Union to establish the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement that opens up a US\$3 trillion liberal market, and a 1.3 billion consumer base. As we seek to deliver sustainable and inclusive industrialisation in Africa, we need to leverage the significant political milestones achieved to date by our leaders, accounting for 30 ratifications and 54 signatories of the Agreement and the imminent

launch of the duty-free trading on 1st January 2021.

The week-long event was officially opened by H.E. Ambassador Albert Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry. The Opening Ceremony was also graced by H.E. Mr. LI Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of Africa Continental Free Trade Area; H.E. Dr. Vera Songwe, Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Paulo Gomes, Co-Chair, AfroChampions Initiative and Executive Committee member and Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, Director of Programme

Delivery and Coordination representing the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki. The week was officially closed by H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger.

Conducted through highly-interactive Panel Sessions, it was themed strategically to chronicle Africa's industrialisation narratives, threats, opportunities, and emerging subjects, in view of the changed programming contexts, at the national, regional, continental and global levels, and lessons thereof to enrich the knowledge exchange.

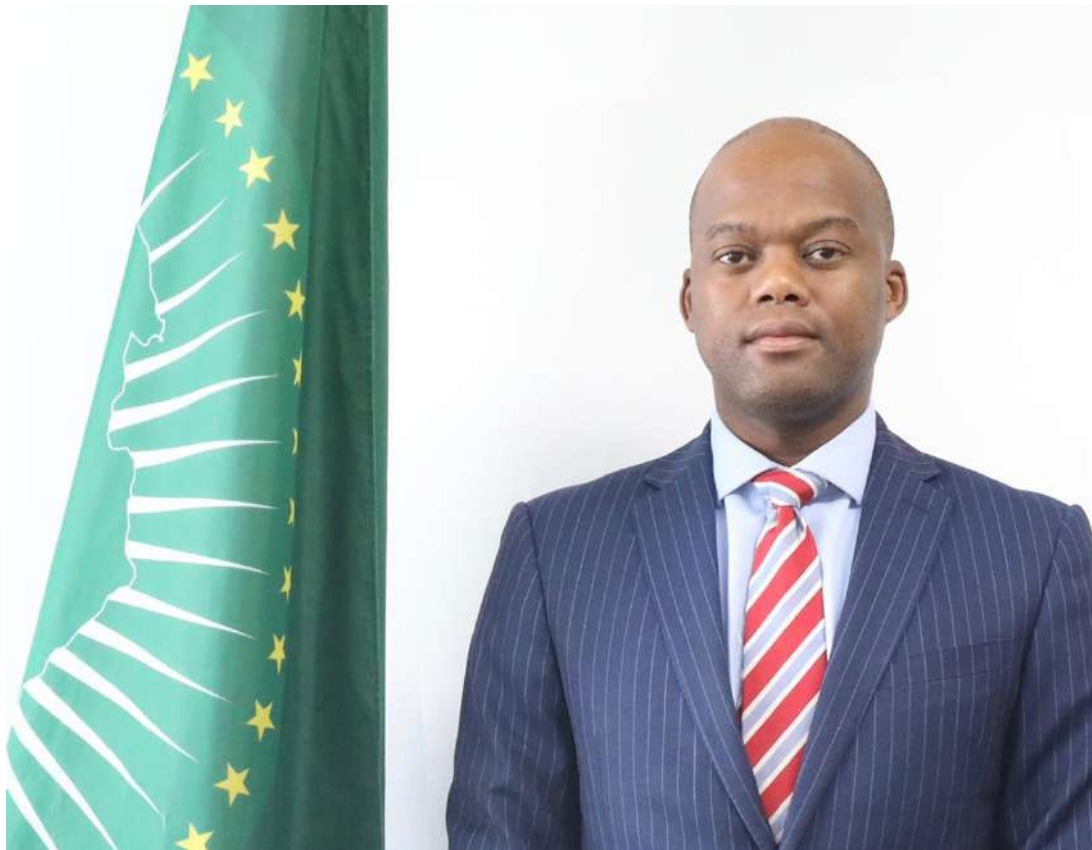
The week rallied all energies at the level of Member States, regional, continental and global levels to drive Africa's industrialisation, to anchor the prospects of delivering on Agenda 2063, and Agenda 2030. Despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of the *"Africa we Want"*, and on the AfCFTA implementation, it was acknowledged that the current context also presents an opportunity for the Continent to re-think its development narrative towards optimally leveraging its diverse natural and rich cultural resources to deliver a sustainable and equitable structural transformation agenda.

The principal objective of this year's celebration was to raise awareness on Africa's industrialisation agenda and thus, rejuvenate high-level political advocacy (at the national, regional, continental and global level) on the urgency to deliver renewed commitment towards Africa's structural transformation exploits in the continent. This objective, was however, cast within the context of rapidly changing development needs of the continent. This due to emerging social and economic shocks in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that disrupted global supply and value chains, exposing Africa's vulnerability, and highlighting the need to deliver a sustainable human-centred development pathway for Africa.

Appraisal of the current industrialisation status of the continent

Africa's industrialisation journey has been a slow but steady process in most parts of the continent while in others, development has been rapid and has led to a transformation of the entire landscapes. With enough human and capital resources to build on, the continent

is on its path to greater development through the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 and all related projects. The recently ended Africa Industrialisation Week (AIW) gave and opportunity for stakeholders to evaluate the road covered so far in terms of industrialisation on the continent. At its close, it was noted that, Agenda 2063 and specifically, the goals



H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA. Photo credit: au.int

targeting wealth creation and the generation of increased opportunities for decent incomes for local populations, (jobs and entrepreneurship), provide the overall context and basis for this call for renewed attention and decisive actions on Africa Industrialisation. It was equally noted that, the Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) and the third industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), remain important frameworks for structural transformation of the continent.

The launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in Niamey, Niger, in July 2019 identified the imperative of a diversified, industrialised Africa to supply the African trading framework. The meeting highlighted the need for enhanced value addition of Africa's abundant natural resources including minerals, and the local production of manufactured goods and services as key to enhancing intra-Africa trade and job creation.

During this year's meetings, policy makers were implored to recognize and facilitate the inter-dependences between trade, markets and industrial policies, taking into account that, trade policy alone without appropriate complementary policies cannot deliver the levels of industrialisation needed for meaningful structural transformation in Africa.

The week underlined the key challenges, opportunities and priorities among the different pathways for Africa Industrialisation including SME development, emerging technologies and innovation, market access and value chain development, sustainable blue economy, agro-industry and food safety, infrastructure development, circular economy, renewable energy and the need to engage a holistic perspective towards accelerating Africa's Industrialisation in the context of implementation of the AfCFTA.

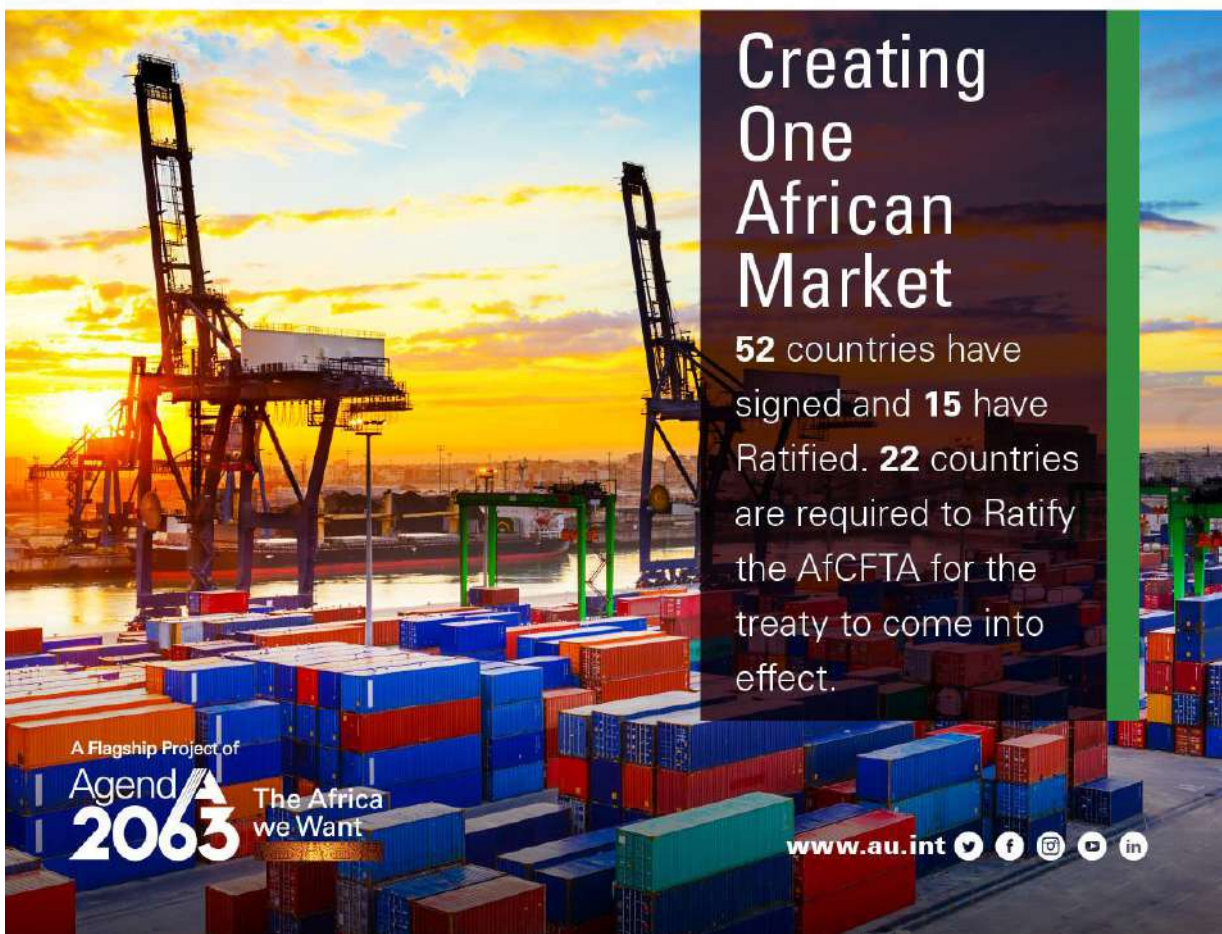
Equally, deliberations of the week also highlighted the potential alternatives and options for establishing strategic and coherent partnerships at sub-regional, regional, continental and global levels to coordinate the realization of Africa's Industrialisation and economic integration aspirations. Growing prioritization in the national development plans, are key to accelerate and expand job creation, and entrepreneurship opportunities for local populations. This is in recognition to Africa's unique feature of the significantly large number of populations earning livelihoods through Micro-Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), mainly in the informal sector.

Additionally, discussions highlighted the opportunities unfolding with enabling technologies, including 4IR innovations and emerging industrialisation pathways such as sustainable blue economy development. Consensus was reached on the need for Africa to take necessary policy and investment choices to leapfrog increased productivity and competitiveness of Africa's Industrialisation while expanding local/regional markets with attractive investment environment and reduced costs of doing business.

The AIW week also pointed out the socio-economic shock and disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgent need for the continent to develop industries, especially pharmaceutical companies that incorporate vibrant research and development. Member States were called upon to integrate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic into national development plans as the consequences of the pandemic may be long-term. The COVID-19 socio-economic consequences will directly impact on Africa's efforts in pursuing Agenda 2063, in general, and Industrialisation and the AfCFTA, in particular.








AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA.



Creating One African Market

52 countries have signed and **15** have Ratified. **22** countries are required to Ratify the AfCFTA for the treaty to come into effect.

A Flagship Project of
Agenda 2063 The Africa we Want

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The future of industrialisation on the continent

After the week-long activities marking the Africa Industrialisation week celebrated this year from the 16th to 20th of November, stakeholders came to a consensus on the way forward. Guided by the principal objective of the AIW 2020, and the outcomes of the event, the following recommendations were made aimed at triggering specific actions and catalyse initiatives towards Africa's Industrialisation Agenda.

To commence with, the need to build consensus among the African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to

align policies and champion renewed political, technical, public-private sector drive towards Africa's industrialisation and AfCFTA goals was highlighted.

Also, view the important role regional value chains play towards industrialisation, Member States were encouraged to develop more sustainable regional value chains with a focus on selected sectors to facilitate intra-Africa integration and its integration into the global economy. This will enhance Africa's competitiveness and innovation capabilities. Targeted value chains should be developed within the context of stemming pandemics such



Photo credit: unido.org

as; COVID-19, and other future shocks that may be encountered, prioritise selected sectors, including local pharmaceutical production (e.g. essential medicines and vaccines).

Equally, the promotion of circular economy approaches and the sustainable and equitable exploitation of natural resources was recommended, with a focus on value addition to strengthen production capacity to supply the African Continental Free Trade Area and other markets.

In addition to the above, the establishment and acceleration of home-grown industries that create employment for large numbers of semi-skilled or unskilled workers, to harness Africa's demographic dividend and raise productivity through innovation, entrepreneurship, services and non-traditional pathways of industrialisation. Equally, the development of integrated sectoral strategies based on a multi-stakeholder consultation across national and regional levels. These should be mainstreamed within the regional value chain agendas and serve as the blueprint that drives a self-sufficient industrialisation pattern of a post-COVID-19 Africa.

More to that, to take stock of and, strengthen existing quality infrastructure at national, regional and continental levels. This will enable for the identification of gaps, and investment opportunities aimed at building robust Standards Bodies to work on common acceptable and corresponding standards, for the identified regional value chains for enhanced export/product competitiveness.

Moreover, the enactment of targeted policy frameworks that promote the competitiveness of African MSMEs, export-oriented "Made-in-Africa" products, including policies that are

focused on promoting a common Quality and Regulatory Framework and Infrastructure in Africa. This should be based on an African Quality Policy, as a basis for Africa's Competitiveness, industrialisation and economic growth.

Improve market and trade information sharing and dissemination to facilitate economic integration across the continent, with a special priority given to access by the MSMEs and the informal sector.

Strengthen Public and Private Dialogue (PPDs) platforms as an important institutional resource for enhanced private sector engagement and participation in the continent's industrialisation agenda. Engagement of the private sector is quite key to unlocking trust and traction in the implementation of industrialisation and trade policy. Thus, being fully aware of the role of the private sector as the engine for economic growth at national, regional and international levels, the AIW 2020 called on countries and RECs to involve the private sector in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of industrial policies and programmes.

Appeal to public officials at the level of Member States, regional, and continental and global levels to work with the newly-launched Africa Business Council (ABC) in its goal to galvanize all private sector voices towards enhancing the business enabling environment for Africa, to attract investment and boost the prospects of AfCFTA implementation. We also invite the ABC to work closely with regional business membership and national business membership organizations for a coherent industry and trade policy advocacy capacity – a key towards policy making in the context of the AfCFTA and likely policy grid-locks that may derail implementation of the free trading regime.

Above all, it was recommended to the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD and the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat to collaborate with technical partners, including Afrexim bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the African private sector to develop an e-commerce African Trade Exchange market place that facilitates trade between buyers and suppliers under the African Continental Free Trade Area rules.

Explore finance and investments (domestic and FDI) opportunities to drive industrialisation within the dynamic regional, and global contexts of a post COVID-19 financial landscape, with a particular focus on new financing and resource mobilization options for both large and small-scale capital investments in response to Africa's continued efforts to industrialise Africa.

Strengthen and implement a comprehensive strategy to foster MSME growth and contribution to all industrialisation pathways in Africa.

Support capacity of Member States and Regional Economic Communities to identify and harness the complexities of Africa's existing and emerging industrialisation pathways and enablers (i.e. agro-industry, ICT and digitalization, blue economy, extractive industries, service industries to name a few), and embrace home grown innovations and the non-traditional, tradeable service components of industrialisation.

Recognize and facilitate the inter-dependences between trade, markets and industrial policies, taking into account that trade policy requires appropriate complementary policies to deliver



Photo credit: un.org

the levels of industrialisation needed for meaningful structural transformation in Africa. This includes strengthening the coherence between regional, and continental programmes to accelerate domestication of the continental frameworks, including the AIDA and the AfCFTA and related protocols, to deliver on Agenda 2063 and SDGs 2030.

Increase the allocation of budgetary resources for the preparation of bankable projects and financing of industrialisation initiatives in collaboration with the private sector for achievement of Africa's industrialisation aspirations.

Establish a dedicated infrastructure fund for the development and upgrading of existing and new special economic zones (SEZs), industrial parks, and other initiatives to promote Africa's industrialisation, to facilitate local and foreign direct investment for the implementation of industrial activities. This should attract investment for green industrialisation, circular economy, lower transaction costs and increase the ease of doing business.

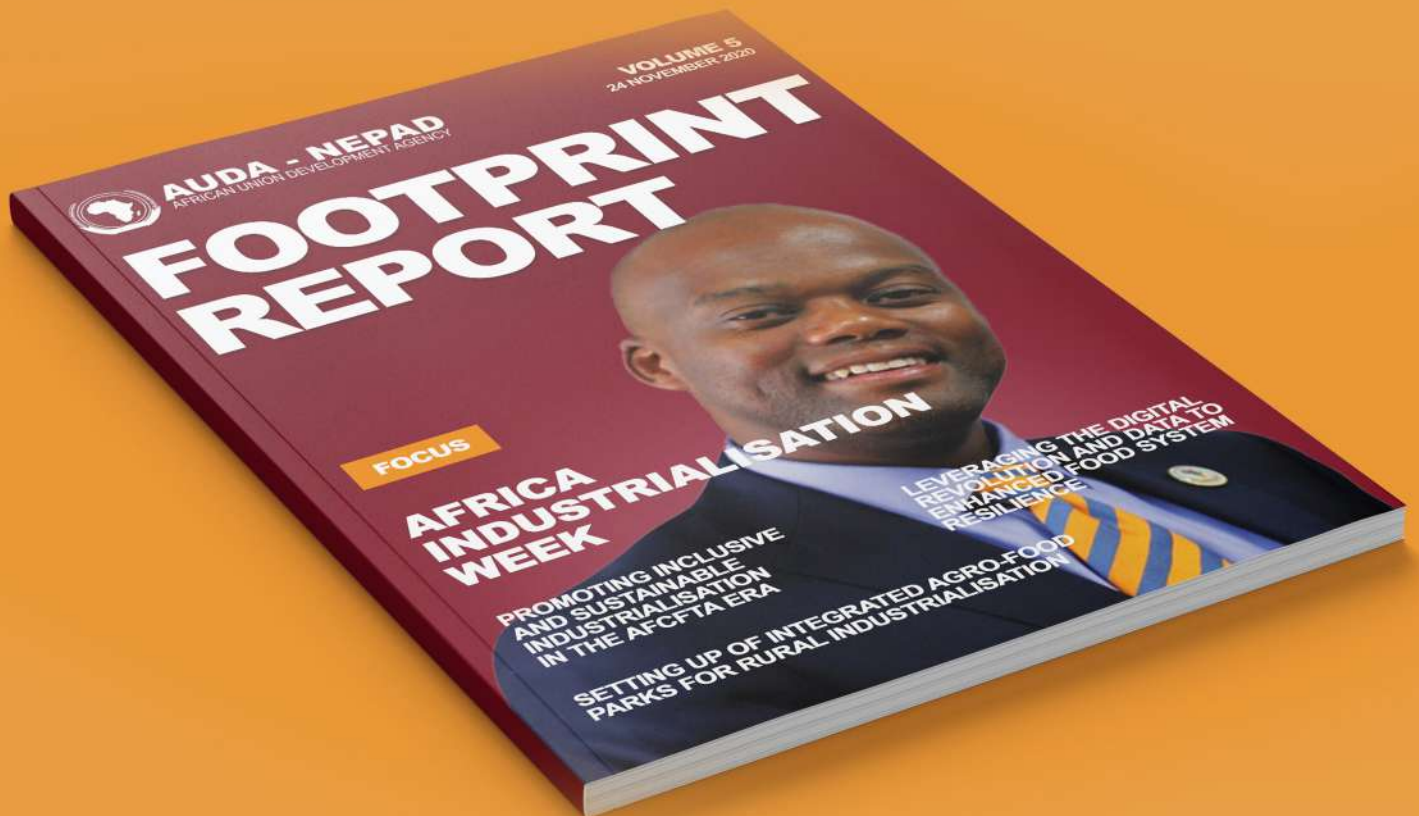
Coordinate and implement regional-level industrial policies and strengthen institutional and governance capacities to ensure effectiveness of the policy design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process. This includes enhancing the coherence of policies and interventions and fostering the creation of the necessary business and regulatory frameworks / policy benchmarks to strengthen industrial policy implementation at the level of Member States. Provide technical, financing-investment and policy alignment support to Member States to strengthen their digital capabilities to take advantage of rapid digitalization. Africa needs a digital industrial strategy to strategically address the opportunities and disruptive challenges offered by the digital economy.

Finally, build evidence-based and scientifically supported initiatives for Africa-specific pathways to drive globally competitive Africa-industrialisation as complementary condition for success of the AfCFTA and Agenda 2063.

For clarifications, technical support or specific capacity building in any of the areas listed, AU Member States Officials are welcome to contact the AUDA-NEPAD COVID-19 Task Force using this email address : COVID19@nepad.org.



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