

Event Description: Advancing Inclusive Development during Complex Political Transitions

Organizers: UNDP in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

Event Type: High-level panel discussion and interactive dialogue.

Background

In recent years, Africa has experienced an increase in the number of countries undergoing complex political transitions, particularly in West and Central Africa. The recently launched UNDP report, *Policy Options for Burkina Faso, Guinea, Gabon, Mali, and Niger*, underscores the urgent need for inclusive development strategies that address governance, economic resilience, and social cohesion in these fragile contexts. This side event aims to provide a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on advancing inclusive development in transition settings. The event will be supported by the Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT), a collaborative initiative between UNDP and the African Union Commission (AUC).

Objectives

- Discuss policy options to support inclusive development in countries undergoing complex political transitions. Highlight best practices in governance, economic recovery, and social cohesion.
- Explore financing mechanisms to sustain development in fragile contexts. Foster partnerships between governments, development partners, and civil society.
- Enhance regional frameworks to strengthen AU and Regional Economic Community (REC) support to populations of countries undergoing complex political transitions.

Format

- High-level panel discussion with representatives from governments, UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector.
- Interactive dialogue and exchange of experiences and policy insights.
- Presentation of key findings from the UNDP report and related studies.

Proposed high-level speakers include:

- **Ahunna Eziakonwa**, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa at UNDP.
- **H.E. Bankole Adeoye**, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security at the African Union Commission.
- **Dr Fonteh Akum**, Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies.
- Ministerial representatives from countries undergoing complex political transitions.

Expected Outcomes

- Actionable policy recommendations for inclusive development.
- Increased awareness of governance and economic resilience strategies.
- Strengthened partnerships for sustainable development in transition settings.
- Follow-up initiatives to implement key recommendations post-ARFSD 2025.

This event, supported by the Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT), emphasizes a shared focus on economic and social opportunities as a pathway to overcoming political impasses, reinforcing regional integration efforts at a critical time for the continent.