

11th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-11)

Kampala, Uganda, 9–11 April 2025 <https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/arfsd2025>

Industrial Policy Lab Africa: Achieving more effective exploitation of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in Africa’s Industrialisation

Proposal for a Virtual Side Event by UNIDO, the Transformative Innovation Africa Hub (TIAH), the dtic and the DSI, South Africa

The Industrial Policy Lab (IPL) Africa is part of UNIDO’s policy-oriented research and capacity development to leverage Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the achievement of the SDG9 “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. This strategic programme draws on UNIDO’s technical and policy services by improve the integration of STI into the industrial development across developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The global IPL initiative is operationalised with the support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (MoFA-RoK).

IPL Africa adopts the government to government (Gov2Gov) approach, primarily, focusing on policymakers; while also including decision-makers and leaders from the broader national systems of innovation (NSI) stakeholders' groupings: industry, academia, civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations. This approach fosters inclusion, representation, equity and the gathering of robust data and evidence to inform the design and operational modalities of the IPL.

On this backdrop, IPL Africa undertook some preparatory activities in 2024, which included research, NSI and industry ecosystems mapping, and three stakeholder consultation sessions¹ focused on engagements with policymakers, industry and innovation² policy ecosystems in stakeholders in Africa – at national, regional and continental levels.

The side event will present the work so far, discuss the emerging findings and programme of work for 2025 and beyond, and policy interventions needed to achieve a more effective exploitation of STI in industrialisation, enabled by Industrial and STI policies. Consequently, the aim of the session is to explore how best to more effectively integrate STI and industrial policies for Africa’s development.

Panel Moderator: Prof Chux Daniels – Department of Engineering and Technology Management and Director, Transformative Innovation Africa Hub (TIAH), University of Pretoria, South Africa

Speakers (to be confirmed):

- Dr Fernando Santiago – Industrial Policy Officer, UNIDO, Vienna Austria
- Ms Nontombi Maseko – Director: Innovation and Technology Policy & Strategy, **the dtic**, South Africa
- Dr Tshepang Mosiea – Chief Director: Innovation for Inclusive Development, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
- Dr Wendy Msika – Economic Specialist: Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment, Embassy of the United States of America, Pretoria, South Africa
- Ms Collette Yende – Procurement Operations Executive at Gibela, Gibela Rail Transport Consortium, South Africa

¹ Held in South Africa for Southern Africa region, Nigeria for West Africa and Kenya for East Africa

² Or more broadly, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)