



# United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

**Programme**  
**17 November 2025**

08:30-09:00 **Registration**

09:00-09:15 **Opening Session** – Welcome remarks, introduction, objectives, and framing.  
Ms. Laura Páez, Chief, Market Institutions Section (MIS), ECA

09:15-10:00 **Session I: Presentation of the draft chapters [Chapters 1-4]**

Chair: Mr. Mamadjam Dinis Djalo, Cabinet Director, Ministry of Trade, Guinea-Bissau

## **Global and regional landscape of SEZs & Theory and Evidence on SEZ [Chapters 1 & 2]**

Presenters: Mr. Tasew Tadesse, Economic Affairs Officer, MIS  
Mr. Lewi Habtamu, Intern, MIS

## **African SEZs at a glance & Performance of SEZs in Africa [Chapters 3 & 4]**

Presenter: Mr. Tasew Tadesse, Economic Affairs Officer, MIS

Discussant: Dr. Abbi Kedir, Director of Research, AERC

10:00-10:20 **Coffee Break**

10:20-11:05 **Open Discussion on Chapters 1 to 4**

11:05-12:00 **Session II: Presentation of the draft Chapter 5**  
**Standards and Norms for Successful SEZs in Africa: country-specific case studies [chapter 5]**

Chair: Mr. Matthew Crighton, Head, Trade and Investment in Africa, Tripleline

## **Country Case Studies**

### **Benin and Gabon**

Presenter: Mr. Moukaila Takpara, Consultant, ATPC

Discussant: Dr. Mary Awusi, CEO, Ghana Free Zone Authority  
Chidinma Udeogu, Assistant General Manager at Nigeria Economic Zones Association (NEZA)



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## **Republic of Korea**

Presenter: Ms. Jione Park, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, MIS

Discussant: Ms. Lilian Githinji, Senior Consultant, Tripleline

## **Costa Rica and Colombia**

Presenter: Ms. Jione Park, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, MIS

Discussant: Prof. Elvis Avenyo, Associate Professor of Development Economics, University of Johannesburg

12:00-13:30 **Lunch Break**

13:30-14:20 **Session II continued**

Chair: Ms. Etami Akinnuoye Ndoping, Programme Officer, Trade and Markets, AUDA-NEPAD

## **Country Case Studies**

### **China**

Presenter: Ms. Beini Liu, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ATPC

Discussant: Ms. Lilian Githinji, Senior Consultant, Tripleline

### **UAE**

Presenter: Mr. Lewi Habtamu, Intern, MIS

Discussant: Ms. Alice Atogo, General Manager of Operations and Investor Support, KEPZA

### **South Africa**

Presenter: Ms. Talumba Ireen Chilipaine, Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-SA

Discussant: Prof. Elvis Avenyo, Associate Professor of Development Economics, University of Johannesburg

14:45-15:20 **Session II Open Discussion**

15:20-15:40 **Coffee Break**



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15:40-16:25 **Session III: Brainstorming on future Chapters**  
Chair: Ms. Laura Paez, Chief, Market Institutions Section (MIS), ECA

**Cross-regional comparison of SEZs' Performance: comparative analysis  
[chapter 6]**

**Best practices and lessons learned for African SEZs [chapter 7]**

**Presenter:** Mr. Tasew Tadesse, Economic Affairs Officer, MIS

**Conclusions and recommendations [chapter 8]**

**Open Discussion**

16:25-16:35 **Way forward and Wrap-up**

16:35 **Closing remarks**  
Ms. Laura Páez, Chief, Market Institutions Section (MIS), ECA