



**SYMPOSIUM FOR THE SUCCESSFUL HARMONIZATION
OF FRAMEWORKS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND
OPERATIONALIZATION OF NEW-GENERATION SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONES IN AFRICA**

Douala – Cameroon, 21-23 January 2025

AGENDA

In partnership with



MINMIDT
Ministry of Mines, Industry and
Technological Development



Day1 – Tuesday 21 January 2025: SEZ Development in Central Africa: Strategies, Challenges and Opportunities

08 :30 - 09 :00	Arrival and registration of participants
09 :00 - 09 :40	Opening session Welcome remarks by ECA, Jean Luc Mastaki, Director, ECA Sub-regional Office for Central Africa (SRO-CA) Remarks by the African Union Commission, Ron Osman Omar, Director (a.i), Industry, Minerals, Entrepreneurship and Tourism, AUC Remarks by the Commission de la Communauté économique et monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), Gregory Lionel Beyina, Director, Industrial Development, Mining and Tourism, CEMAC Remarks by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Jules Rommel Touka, Chief Economic Policies Section Remarks by UNDP, Isiyaka Sabo, Regional Team Leader, Inclusive Growth and Extractives, UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa Remarks by UNIDO Regional Office in Cameroon, Raymond Taveres, UNIDO Representative in Cameroon and Central Africa Remarks by European Union Delegation, Jerome Pons, Head of Cooperation of EU in Cameroon Remarks by the representative of the Government of Cameroon, Ivan Kabiena, Director of Industry, Ministry of Mines, Industry, and Technological Development (MINMIDT)
09 :40 - 10 :00	Coffee break and group photo
10 :00 - 10 :05	Objectives and overview of symposium agenda, Koffi Elitcha, ECA
10:05 – 10: 10	Towards joint implementation of the Master Plan for Industrialization and Diversification of Central Africa (PDIDE-CA), Adama Ekberg Coulibaly, Chief, Sub-regional Initiatives Section, ECA SRO-CA
10 :10 - 11 :45	Establishment and operationalization of SEZs in Central Africa: Taking stock of progress and challenges Keynote presentation of UNIDO and AEZO 2024 survey report on SEZ in Africa, Stefan Kratzsch Head, Sustainable Investments and Responsible Business Unit, UNIDO <i>Sharing of country experiences and plenary discussion</i>
11 :45 - 13 :00	SEZ Development in Central Africa I: Strategic Objectives and Opportunities <i>François Serres, International Consultant, ECA</i>
13 :00 - 14 :00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15: 30	Procedures and tools for the creation and development of industrial parks and SEZs, Tamer Tandogan, UNIDO

SEZs and Sectoral Value Chain Development: Legal, Institutional and Techno-economic Considerations,

François Serres, International Consultant, ECA

15 :30 - 15 :45

Coffee break

15 :45 - 17 :00

SEZ Development in Central Africa II: Opportunity, feasibility studies and contract models

François Serres, International Consultant, ECA

Day 2 – Wednesday 22 January 2025: SEZ, Regional Integration, and Sustainable Development in Central Africa

09 :00 - 10 :40

SEZs and regional integration in the AfCFTA context: Existing sub-regional and regional initiatives

SEZs and AfCFTA regulations and rules of origin, Nicholas Charalambides, Director, Imani Development

Demba Seck and Yuta Takanebe, World Customs Organization

Andre Mballa, Coordinator PDIZTF (tri-border integrated project in Central Africa)

Gregoire Beyina, CEMAC

Emmanuel Mbarga, AfCFTA Secretariat

Plenary discussion

Moderated by Jules Touka, ECCAS

10 :40 - 11 :00

Coffee break

11 :00 - 12 :30

SEZs, integration of MSMEs and local economic development, Sid Boubekour, and Peter Kuria Githinji, International consultants, AUC

Discussant interventions:

Corridor development in Central Africa for better SEZ/MSMEs integration: challenges, progress and opportunities, Maurice Niaty-Mouamba, International Consultant, Transport and infrastructure

Plenary discussion

Moderated by Maximin Emagna, Founder and Director, PME Afrique Centrale

12 :30 - 13 :30

Lunch break

13 :30 – 15 :00

Linking MSMEs to SEZs in the AfCFTA context: Country Experiences,

Moderation: Ariel Ayissi, UNDP Cameroun

Domingos Mazivila, UNDP Equatorial Guinea and Representative of Ministry of Commerce, Equatorial Guinea

Arsene Saya, UNDP Congo and Patrick Lebake, Ministry of SEZ and economic diversification, Congo

Maximin Emagna, PME Afrique centrale

Blanche Ongmessom, AWIP Cameroun

Plenary discussion

15:00 - 15:20

Coffee break

15:20 - 17:00

SEZs, and inclusive sustainable development in fragile contexts in Central Africa, Moderation: Liliane Mouan, OHCHR

Christian Kafando, AfDB

Eric Bisil, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Rodrigue Zuchuon, ILO

Julien Ngolzok, Trade Union Representative

Plenary discussion

Day 3– Thursday 23 January 2025 Towards building strategic partnerships and a common roadmap to accelerate the harmonization of SEZ development in Central Africa

09:00 - 10:30

Capacity Needs for an integrated SEZ Programme in Central Africa

Presentation by Holger Bingmann, CEO and Founder of Thinking Arabian

Presentation by Gregoire Beyina (CEMAC) on the relevance to develop a community directive on SEZs in Central Africa

Plenary discussion

10:30 - 10:50

Coffee break

10:50 – 12:30

Financing Inclusive and Sustainable SEZs in Central Africa:

Moderation: Achille Ngassam, National Coordinator in charge of investment promotion, UNIDO Cameroon

Christian Kafando, AfDB

Christian Ndikumagenge, Afreximbank

Hilaire Tanekeu, European Development Fund National Authorizing Officer Support Unit, Cameroon (CAON-FED)

Emmanuel Tamungang, Director in charge of investment promotion, Investment Promotion Agency (API) Cameroon

Plenary discussion

12:30 – 13:00

Wrap-up, recommendations and way forward

Jean Luc Mastaki, ECA

Isiyaka Sabo, UNDP

Ron Osman, AUC

Gregoire Beyina, CEMAC

Jules Touka, ECCAS

Ivan Kabiena, MINMIDT

13:00 - 13:30

Feedback of participants and closing remarks, ECA

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch