

Experts to meet on Metrology, Export Diversification and Intra-Industry Trade in Africa

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Addis Ababa, 02 May 2012 (ECA) –The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the United Nations for Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on Metrology, Export Diversification and Intra-Industry Trade in Africa, to be held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 3-4 May, 2012.

The meeting will convene experts from academia, research and development institutions, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and international organizations.

According to Stephen Karing, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division at the ECA, one of the main objectives of the meeting will be to peer review a paper just completed by the ECA focusing on the trends and status of export diversification and intra-industry trade on the continent.

"The potential linkages between both key concepts as well as the numerous current constraints (tariff and non-tariff barriers on goods and services, product standards, lack of quality infrastructure are also to be discussed thoughtfully."

He adds: "We also expect that learning from African and other regions' experiences will help having a concrete and broader perspective on the topic."

In this context, the EGM aims to come up with clear recommendations to enhance the capacities of Member States and RECs for strengthening export diversification and intra-industry trade within the continent with a view to boosting intra-African trade.

At the 18th African Union (AU) Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa last January, an Action Plan for "Boosting Intra-African Trade" was adopted. AU member States underscored the desire to see the share of trade within African economies doubling within the next 10 years. To achieve this objective, deepening regional integration is seen as a top priority, as is the promotion of industrial development and value addition aiming at diversifying African economies.

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