



**CSEA**  
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF  
THE ECONOMIES OF AFRICA



**A joint UNCTAD – CSEA workshop on**

**Fostering productive capacities, structural economic transformation, and export diversification in LLDCs and other structurally weak West African economies**

17-18 December 2019  
Transcorp Hilton  
Abuja, Nigeria

Tentative Programme

<b>Day 1 (17 December 2019)</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration in front of the Conference Room
8:45*- 9:00	Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNCTAD and CSEA <sup>1</sup>
09:00 – 09:30	<p><b>Opening Statements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes (ALDC), UNCTAD</li> <li>○ Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)</li> <li>○ <b>Keynote Address:</b> The Honorable Minister, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (MITI)</li> </ul>
09:30 – 09:45	Group photo and coffee break

<sup>1</sup> The signing of the MoU signals the official designation of the Center for the Studies of Economies of Africa (CSEA) as the UNCTAD Center of Excellence.

\*Open for press only

09.45 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 1 – Productive capacities for inclusive growth in West African sub-region</b></p> <p>This session explains the concept of productive capacities, its components, as well as its role in the development process. It will examine policies and instruments to enable countries to foster productive capacities and structural economic transformation.</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Joseph Nnanna, Assistant Chief Economist, Development Bank of Nigeria Plc.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries Section (LLDCs), ALDC, UNCTAD</li> <li>○ Mr. Segun Ajayi -Kadir, Director General, Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN)</li> <li>○ Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert, Economic Affairs Officer, LLDCs’ Section, ALDC, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Interactive discussions</p>
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 2 – Building productive capacities in West African LLDCs and other structurally weak and vulnerable economies in the sub-region: Challenges and opportunities</b></p> <p>Building on the assessment of the state of productive capacities, measurements and benchmarks, this session allows for an exchange of views on the policies needed to build productive capacities in LLDCs and other structurally weak and vulnerable West African economies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moderator: Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes (ALDC), UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expert from Mali</li> <li>○ Expert from Ghana</li> <li>○ Expert from Senegal</li> <li>○ Dr. Robert Asogwa, Macroeconomist, African Development Bank (AfDB) and Member, CBN Monetary Policy Committee</li> <li>○ Expert from Togo</li> </ul> <p>Interactive discussions</p>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch

13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 3 – Exploring comparative advantages and identifying sectors with potential for export diversification</b></p> <p>There are comparative advantages for several African countries, both within the extensive and intensive margins, for export diversification and structural economic transformation. For several LLDCs and structurally vulnerable economies of West Africa, the extractive sector, agriculture and agro-processing are promising sectors for export diversification. There are also growing opportunities in terms of export markets for West African products including China, South Africa and Russia. Therefore, based on the studies undertaken by CSEA, this session explores the potential existing in the sub-region, binding constraints and policy challenges limiting exploitation of existing comparative advantages for trade expansion, economic growth and development. It will closely examine the role of sub-regional and regional agreements, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), in expanding trade, export diversification and the facilitation of transit and transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moderator: Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)</li> </ul> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prof. T. Ademola Oyejide, Professor Emeritus, University of Ibadan</li> <li>○ Dr. Adedeji Adeniran, Senior Research Fellow, CSEA</li> <li>○ Expert from Senegal</li> <li>○ Expert from Burkina Faso</li> <li>○ Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert, Economic Affairs Officer, LLDCs’ Section, ALDC, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Interactive discussions</p>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break

15:15 – 16.30	<p><b>Session 4 –The state of export diversification in West Africa and lessons learnt from Asian countries</b></p> <p>This session provides an opportunity for the workshop participants to share their country experiences with regard to export diversification, and to highlight best practices, challenges and lessons learnt.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>o Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, LLDCS/ALDC, UNCTAD</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Expert from Chad</li><li>o Expert from Cote d’Ivoire</li><li>o Expert from Central African Republic</li><li>o Expert from Niger</li><li>o Expert from The Gambia</li></ul> <p>Interactive discussions</p>
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**Day 2 (18 December 2019)**

09.00 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 5 – Diversification, trade logistics, and trade facilitation as tools for development in West African LLDCs</b></p> <p>This session will highlight the policies and measures needed to strengthen trade logistics and trade facilitation in West African LLDCs and other structurally weak and vulnerable economies in the sub-region, so as to promote export diversification, structural economic transformation and inclusive development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Moderator: Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)</li></ul> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, LLDCS/ALDC, UNCTAD</li><li>○ Dr. Grace Onubedo, Senior Research Fellow, CSEA</li><li>○ Expert from Liberia</li><li>○ Expert from Sierra Leone</li><li>○ Expert from Burkina Faso</li><li>○ Expert from Guinea (Conakry)</li></ul> <p>Interactive discussions</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 6 – Fostering productive capacities and export diversification</b></p> <p>This session will pull together the main policy recommendations and conclusions in the area of building productive capacities and fostering export diversification, as well as provide inputs and recommendations for the outcome document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Moderator: Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes (ALDC), UNCTAD</li></ul> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr. Dozie Okoye, Visiting Fellow, CSEA Africa</li><li>○ Dr. Ifediora Amobi, Executive Director, Anambra State Investment Promotion Agency (ANSIPA)</li><li>○ Prof. Jonathan Aremu, Consultant, ECOWAS Common Investment Market</li><li>○ Expert from The Gambia</li><li>○ Expert from Benin</li></ul>

	Interactive discussions
12:00 -12.30	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes (ALDC), UNCTAD</li> <li>○ Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)</li> </ul>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch