Event Details

Title of Event
Mainstreaming urbanization in national economic and industrial planning

Organization Details
Organization: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Organization Country: Ethiopia

Summary
The course will be informed by the following main premises: • Currently, African national development plans consider urban issues as a sectoral issue, with a limited role in economic transformation and industrialization. Urban goals in many national development plans of African countries are often expected to deal with poverty and informality, rather than to realize the economic opportunities that cities and urbanization represent. In the same vein, national development plans often place a priority on agriculture and rural development over urban economic productivity. This results in urban underinvestment, with significant consequences for the economy in the long term.
• Under national development planning, a cross-sectoral and strategic perspective is required to link urbanization and inclusive economic growth. Sectoral policies for industrial development need to factor in the implications of Africa’s rapid urbanization, and urban policies have to better integrate job-rich industrial development for sustainable urbanization. In this way, urban and industrial strategies can be explicitly linked to broader national goals such as employment creation, poverty reduction and improving the quality of life in both urban and rural areas. The following specific modules will be covered by the training session: 1. Key concepts, trends and conditions of urbanization in Africa - This module emphasizes the power of economic policy and the need to better incorporate the opportunities of urbanization into planning. It gives an overview of pace and scale of urbanization and its connections to economic development, demographic transitions and environmental trajectories. 2. Urbanization and structural transformation in Africa - This module dives into the economics underlying the links between urbanization and inclusive economic growth, focusing on the experience of African countries with economic structural transformation. 3. Economic sector targeting to leverage urban potential - This module emphasizes the importance of productive urban jobs for national economic growth and inclusive development, and discusses policy approaches to target sectors that will create such jobs. 4. Productive national urban systems for economic growth - This module explores the topic of spatial targeting and highlights the importance of linking economic and spatial planning. The role of various types of cities is discussed, locational considerations for special economic zones are noted, and the importance of a city’s economic linkages is emphasized. 5. Productive cities for economic growth - This module examines the characteristics of cities that can either convey productive benefits to firms or put them at a disadvantage. In particular, it discusses urban form, the institutions guiding real estate development, urban infrastructure, housing and the costs of dysfunctional cities. 6. Integrating
Urbanization in National Development Planning – This module will walk you through the steps of national development planning. The goal is operationalizing the concepts of the course to leverage urbanization for inclusive economic growth.

Other Organization name