



Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics- Technology, Innovation and
Knowledge Development Branch
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

**Shaping the future of supply chains in Africa: Optimizing opportunities
and strategic value Economic Development in Africa Report**

Tuesday, 12 September 2023, Delivered by
the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XXVI
10:00- 10:15	Welcome address, TBD. Short course will be moderated by Mr. Angel Gonzalez, Head, Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge Development Branch-DTL.	
10:15 - 11:15	Session 1 This session will provide an overview of global supply chains and recent disruptions. It will also shed light on the changes needed to promote more resilient supply chains, including the risks currently posed by concentrating manufacturing and supply chains in a few markets or sourcing sector-specific intermediate goods from a few, which increased the exposure to shocks and disruptions in production networks and supply chains. The session will further discuss Africa's comparative advantage in global supply chains and how it can become a strategic partner to make supply chains more resilient. Presented by Christine Awiti, Economic Affairs Officer, Africa Section, ALDC, UNCTAD	
11:15 – 11:30	Q&A session	
11:30 – 12:30	Session 2 This session will zoom in on the key findings and strategies from EDAR 2023 on how African economies and businesses (including SMEs) can position themselves to become key players in global supply chains. Therefore, policy options on the opportunities for companies to diversify and relocate part of their supply chains, especially in high-knowledge and technology-intensive sectors such as automotive, electronics, and medical devices, by considering or targeting Africa as a new source market for inputs will be presented. The session further discusses the role of technology-enabled services and financing mechanisms that global companies and economies are increasingly leveraging to diversify and facilitate the resilience of their supply chains. Presented by Habiba Ben Barka, Economic Affairs Officer, Chief of Africa Section, ALDC, UNCTAD	
12:30 – 13:00	Q&A session	

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The global supply chain disruptions caused by recent global shocks (e.g. Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, climate change impact, etc.) and the resulting global market slowdown have intensified the need to promote more resilient supply chain operations across various regions, and thus mitigating the risks of supply shortages and other repercussions of shocks and vulnerabilities on supply chain efficiency. The risks of concentrating manufacturing and supply chains in a few markets or sourcing sector-specific intermediate goods from a few locations can increase exposure to shocks and disruptions in production networks and supply chains. As a result, industries participating in global supply chains are increasingly seeking to diversify their supply base (number of suppliers) and customer base (number of customers), improve their supply chains with more technology-enabled processes and businesses, and optimize supply chain financing solutions in order to reducing their dependence on global suppliers, sourcing, distribution and other supply chain components.

The course will inform policymakers on these current global trends and how the increasing need for global firms to diversify their supply chains in order to improve resilience can provide African countries with a unique opportunity to make more impactful integration into the global economy. The course will also discuss the opportunities for companies to diversify and relocate part of their supply chains, especially in high-knowledge and technology-intensive sectors such as automotive, electronics, and medical devices, by considering or targeting Africa as a new source market for inputs (e.g. critical minerals and intermediate products) while reducing the costs of transportation and logistics and minimizing risks with supplier delivery delays and other challenges. Growing African consumer markets, with increasing demand for electronics goods and financial technology services, can provide incentives for market proximity and diversification towards the continent. New technologies and manufacturing trends are critical ingredients that allow viable local production, attractive domestic markets for foreign companies (including relocation of production to the continent), and innovative supply chain practices. The course will present key findings and strategies from EDAR 2023 on how best African economies and businesses (including SMEs) can position themselves to become key players in global supply chains.

Christine Awiti is Economic Affairs Officer in the Africa Section, Policy Analysis and Research Branch, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva. Christine works on trade and development issues, with a particular focus on economic diversification and structural transformation for African countries. Prior to joining UNCTAD, Christine worked for the Commonwealth Secretariat as an Economic Advisor for Small States, with a focus on Macroeconomic policy, debt, and vulnerability. Christine has also worked for the Economic Commission for Africa where she carried out macroeconomic and debt analysis on African countries during the COVID-19 crisis, the World Bank, and the Central Bank of Kenya. Christine holds a PhD in Macroeconomic Theory from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany, as well as a MSc in Economic Development from the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Habiba Ben Barka is a specialist in economic, public policy, finance, trade and development analysis for African countries. She worked for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in New York from 2004 to 2007, during which she was responsible for the management of the Trade Capacity Development Project for Sub-Saharan African countries. She then moved to the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunisia then Cote d'Ivoire. As an economist at AfDB, her work focused on providing Economic Intelligence on a wide variety of economic, political, financial, trade and other emerging issues in African countries. She also provided country analysis of political economy in fragile situations. Habiba Ben Barka joined the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in 2017, where she led UNECA's initiatives on innovative finance in Africa while providing economic intelligence and advisory support on broader finance, economic governance and public management issues in Africa as well as supporting African countries design and implement policies and regulations aimed at promoting private sector development and improving their business and investment environment. Habiba Ben Barka is now Chief of Africa Section at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), leading the organization's work on economic development research in Africa. She holds a master's degree in international commerce and policy, and a bachelor's degree in government and international politics from George Mason University in Virginia, U.S.A.