

 **EU-OECD PROGRAMME
ON INVESTMENT IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN**
**LEVERAGING VALUE CHAINS AND INVESTMENT
LINKAGES TO ENHANCE MENA-AFRICA
INTEGRATION**
18 February 2022 11:30 - 12:15

Enhancing value chains and investment linkages is important for African economies aiming to achieve diversification and strengthen their position in global markets. Investment and industrial policy reforms have been a high priority for many economies in North and Sub-Saharan Africa. While some economies have been successful at attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to establish export-oriented industries, FDI in much of Africa remains below its potential compared to other developing and emerging economies. This is partly due to the structural challenges, including lack of skills and innovation shared by many of the diverse economies of the continent, which are hindering the growth of a dynamic, competitive and rules-based private sector. Yet, a central element of boosting productivity and technological upgrading in global value chains is the full integration of increasingly skilled women into the labour force, including in higher value-added activities.

The global economic crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic is also likely to increase poverty, unemployment and macro-economic instability across the continent. This new reality makes it even more imperative to commit to effective reforms to ensure that investment contributes positively to sustainable development. Leveraging investment to support the economic recovery will require policymakers to adopt targeted strategies, as well as to address persistent challenges to competitive markets and advance policies to support more inclusive growth, including to promote skills and determined policies for women economic empowerment.

This workshop will be organised in collaboration with DG NEAR and will focus on strengthening value chain and investment linkages to promote MENA-Africa integration. It will build on OECD extensive work with North Africa in the framework of the EU-OECD Investment in the Mediterranean Programme, and will explore the linkages between North Africa and Sub Saharan Africa from an investment perspective.

AGENDA

Introduction

- **Mr. Carlos Conde**, Head of the Middle East and Africa Division, OECD
- **Ms. Ingrid Schwaiger**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission

Discussion

Moderator: Mr. Alin Horj, Policy Analyst, and Project Manager, Middle East and Africa Division, OECD

- **Ms. Ana Novik**, Head of the Investment Division, OECD
- **Ms. Nadira Bayat**, Gender and Trade Expert, UN Women
- **Mr. Ahmed Kamaly**, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt