



# UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020: Africa Industrialization Day

**Maputo, 19 November, 2020-** UNIDO will join rest of the continent to commemorate this year's Africa Industrialization Day within the framework of the Africa Industrialization Week introduced by the Africa Union Commission in 2018. The day will be marked under the theme "*Inclusive and sustainable industrialization in the AfCFTA era*". The commemorations are being co-organized by AUC, AUDA NEPAD, UNIDO, UNECA and AfroChampions Initiative.

The Africa Industrialization Week, 2020 presents African leaders, policymakers, development partners, and representatives of the private sector, international financial institutions, civil society, and academia the opportunity to reflect on ways to accelerate Africa's industrialization and rally the desired political momentum, resources, partnerships, and alliances towards an African industrialization drive.

The focus on free trade could not have come at a more appropriate time than now where COVID 19 is not only contributing to lower levels of trade in goods but also having an adverse economic impact on people's livelihoods in Mozambique. The impacts of the pandemic are reportedly continuing to hamper the ability of citizens to earn a living in the informal sector.

Despite its modest participation in global value chains, Mozambique is nevertheless vulnerable to the paralization of global trade due to the impacts of COVID-19, becoming subject to quite disruptive effects and ramifications. The country suffered demand and supply side-shocks, in terms of exports and imports, due to border closures, lockdowns and global contraction of consumption, which had negative effects on the national exports of commodities, agro-processed products, and on tourism, hampering substantive contributors to employment, livelihoods and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth;

By promoting intra-African trade, the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) is expected to nurture a more competitive and diversified manufacturing sector. The removal of tariffs will create a continental market that allows companies to benefit from economies of scale. The success of the AfCFTA in increasing the supply response hinges largely on the continent's determined efforts to remove supply-side rigidities and



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infrastructural bottlenecks to reduce significantly the cost of production and cost of doing business across borders.

Mozambique like other African states will benefit from trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) which is hoped to usher in huge regional market potential to help the economy recover better and faster from the COVID-19 pandemic.