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20th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)  
***Institutions, Decentralization and  
Structural transformation in Eastern  
Africa***

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Roundtable Discussion on  
***The Followers and Leaders' Pact: Towards New Horizons***

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

***9 February 2016, Nairobi, Kenya***

## **I. Background**

1. The Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) will hold the Twentieth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 8-11 February 2016. The ICE is the statutory organ, which meets annually to define and monitor the implementation of the work programme of the ECA Office in Eastern Africa and to discuss key issues and challenges pertaining to the economic and social development of the sub-region with the view to making appropriate recommendations to address them.

2. In 2016, the ICE will focus on the theme of *'Institutions, Decentralization and Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa'* as a way to further explore the relevance and effectiveness of decentralised political systems of governance as a means to building strong institutions<sup>1</sup>, balancing national and local interest, enhancing social equity and national unity for development, legitimizing markets and generating a "fair deal" for all. Case studies from Africa and beyond will expose the limitations and potential benefits of decentralization processes in the context of strategic planning, decision making, management and allocation of resources, delivery of services, and programme implementation.

3. The ICE will include high-level panel sessions focused on components related to the main topic of the ICE. As part of these sessions, a roundtable discussion is scheduled to take place on *'The Followers and Leaders' Pact: Towards New Horizons'*. Mutually beneficial relationships between leaders and their followers have been identified as a key institutional ingredient to empowering citizens, communities, private sector leaders and other stakeholders towards structural transformation.

## **II. Rationale**

4. Africa's structural transformation is a sine quoi non stage on the continent's quest to build equitable and resilient economies. Its realization will depend on the depth of the partnerships that are established between leaders and followers, the quality of governance and accountability mechanisms, and the strength of the platforms for multi-stakeholder participation in policy and decision making. Reviewing the evolving institutional landscape for structural transformation is an important process to building a body of knowledge and practice on the changes happening in Africa. The exercise creates opportunities to distil lessons and draw relevant policy implications.

## **III. Objective of the event**

5. The roundtable discussion aims to discuss the institutional make-up for structural transformation anchored on the relationships between leaders and followers. This would include discussions on the processes that can lead to (1) better matching of socio-economic and political decisions with identified local needs; (2) enhanced citizen participation in policy and decision-making through sustained civic awareness and education; (3) good governance and mutual accountability; (4) innovation, entrepreneurship and growth with shared benefits; (5) solid social compacts for change; and (6) mainstreaming of shared national values.

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<sup>1</sup> See Dani Rodrik book 'One Economics Many Recipes: Globalisation, Institutions and Economic Growth' chapter 5 on 'Institutions for High-Quality Growth'.

#### IV. Expected outcome of the event

6. It is expected that the roundtable will showcase leading examples of successful citizen and community empowerment experiences in Eastern Africa and contribute to a better of understanding of the institutional foundations needed to accelerate structural transformation in the sub-region. This will include homegrown solutions.

#### V. Format of the roundtable

7. The roundtable will follow a Davos style format. Discussions will be facilitated by a moderator and will include a panel and audience comprising of policy makers, representatives of leading CSOs and well-known practitioners from Eastern Africa with a wealth of knowledge and experience on change making processes, governance and multi-stakeholder engagement, as well as citizen and community empowerment. The official languages of the event will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in both languages.

8. The moderator will be Ms. Julie Gichuru<sup>2</sup>, news anchor at KBC Channel 1.

#### VI. Potential Speakers

	<b>Names</b>	<b>Profiles</b>
1.	Supporting institution	Private sector perspective-KEPSA
2.	Prof. Kitila Mkumbo	Senior Consultant in Education, Twaweza East Africa and Associate Professor of Psychology and Education, University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
3.	Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro	Director, SRO-EA/UNECA
	<b>From the audience</b>	
4.	Uraia Trust	Existing campaigns
5.	CSOs	CSO perspective - Citizen participation experiences in the new context in Kenya
6.	Others	

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<sup>2</sup> Julie Gichuru conceptualized and hosts the Africa Leadership Dialogues, a syndicated current affairs program with a focus on African development and growth. She is also a TV Host with East Africa's leading broadcaster KBC (<http://www.juliegichuru.com>).