High-level event on IDDA III



CONCEPT NOTE

Strengthening Africa's Pharmaceutical Industry – learning the lessons from COVID19



1. BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/70/293 proclaiming the period 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) in July 2016. The proclamation was made based on the recognition that it is through sustainable industrialization that the continent will be able to have meaningful development. At the same time, the proclamation served to show that the international community is ready to enhance its partnership with African stakeholders for benefits that would go beyond the continent. It further called for the strengthening of public-private partnerships and enhanced international co-



< <u>Regulatory oversight:</u>

Strong regulatory oversight is required to protect patients from the scourge of sub-standard and falsified medicines, and in so doing ensure that the market for safe, effect quality assured medicines is not eroded. Close regulatory scrutiny of vaccine manufacturing is required and national regulatory medicines authorities must certify each lot before it is released. At present only two national medicines regulatory authorities in sub-Saharan Africa have reached WHO maturity level 3, the benchmark for satisfactory oversight. Hence, further investment in regulatory systems is required to protect public health, strengthen the business case for investment and to provide a basis for reliance mechanisms that can enable broad market access for manufacturers. Under the AMRH initiative implemented through



plant designs can enable Africa to leapfrog other domains and some manufacturers are already adopting these modern manufacturing processes. Hence an array of different technologies can be leveraged to open up new opportunities for healthcare industry development.

In addressing these and other issues, the context of the different industry sectors requires that approaches be tailored for vaccines, medicines and other health products. Recognizing this and other complexities, how can African institutions, member states and private sector work together to strengthen healthcare industries on the continent? What roles can the international community play in supporting and contributing to this vital undertaking?



Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), AfroChampions Initiative and the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank).

4. OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the event are to:

- a) Discuss and highlight tangible action areas, solutions and necessary policy measures to boost Africa's pharmaceutical industry.
- b) Explore innovative solutions for the systemic barriers hindering development of the continent's health industries.
- c) Discuss optimal approaches for mobilizing domestic and foreign investment for Africa's pharmaceutical sector.
- d) Highlight on-going initiatives to strengthen the sector and opportunities for new technologies to contribute to transformational change.
- e) Identify how current high-level focus can be translated into long term engagement.
- f) Deepen knowledge of policy makers on the current status and options for progressing
- g) Inform and guide efforts of relevant international and continental stakeholders to realize the envisaged common vision.
- h) Rally desired political



7. OUTCOMES

- 1) A joint communique on industrial development of Africa's pharmaceutical sector;
- 2) High-level consensus on the need to expedite and support local production of pharmaceuticals and health industry in Africa;
- 3) Recommendations on key initiatives to advance pharmaceutical and health industries;
- 4) Mobilization of partnerships and resources in support of pharmaceutical industry agenda and;
- 5) Propose an effective monitoring and reporting framework to evaluate the progress in implementing the proposed policy actions.

