

Subregional Office for North Africa

Webinar

Addressing Gaps and Challenges in Africa's Middle-Income Countries

Tuesday 28 November 2023, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm GMT+1

[Registration link](#)

Provisional programme

2:00 – 2:10 Opening remarks

- Antonio Pedro, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme support at the Economic Commission for Africa (5 mn)
- Abdellah Ben Mellouk, Director of Multilateral Cooperation and International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates (5 mn)

Moderator: Zuzana Brixiova Schwidrowski, Director, ECA North Africa

Session 1 – Human Capital and Technology Adoption

2:10 – 2:20 Human Capital and Productive Employment Creation: Addressing Africa's Skills Gap (10mn)

Amal Elbeshbishi, Economist, ECA Office for North Africa

2:20 – 2:30 Technology Adoption and Middle-Income Trap (10mn)

Rabah Arezki, Research Director at the CNRS and the CERDI, Former Chief Economist and Vice-President of the AfDB

2:30 – 2:40 Développer les compétences pour les métiers de demain en Afrique du Nord

Audrey Chouchane, Lead Economist for North Africa, AfDB

2:40 – 2:50 Discussion

Session 2 – Debt Trap

2:50 – 3:00 Sovereign debt management and Sustainable finance in North Africa (10mn)

Amandine Nakumuryango, Economist, ECA Office for North Africa

3:00 – 3:10 Avoiding the illiquidity trap: debt pressures on African MICs (10mn)

Martin Kessler, Executive Director of the Finance for Development Lab

3:10 – 3:20 Debt Clouds over North Africa? (10mn)

Adnan Mazarei, Senior Non-Resident Fellow at Peterson Institute for International Economics and former Deputy Director, IMF ME Department

3:20 – 3:30 Climate/SDGs Debt Swap Donor Nexus Initiative - Toward accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (10mn)

Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, leader of the Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA

3:30 – 3:40 Addressing the debt burdens in MICs (10mn)

Anthony Simpasa, Head of Macroeconomic Policy, Debt Sustainability and Forecasting Division, AfDB

3:40 – 3:50 Discussion

3:50 – 4:00 Concluding remarks