

New directions in industrialisation and industrial policy in Africa

You are invited to the Annual TIPS Forum, to be held on 4 and 5 August 2026, at IDC, in Sandton. Since 1997, the TIPS Forum has brought together leading policymakers, practitioners and economic stakeholders to share knowledge and perspectives on industrial and trade policy across Africa.

The theme for this year's Forum, is "**New directions in industrialisation and industrial policy in Africa.**" It will examine how the fast-changing global environment is reshaping industrial policy and economic development across the continent. Over the past 15 years, Africa has experienced sweeping structural shifts – the rise of China as an economic power, the climate crisis, evolving service industries, the COVID-19 downturn, a surge in AI-related investment, and the US Administration's turn to unilateralism in global trade. Against this backdrop, African economies, and South Africa in particular, continue to grapple with the long-standing challenge of industrialisation, diversifying away from a reliance on raw material exports, and confronting deep-rooted unemployment and inequality.

The Forum will explore two central questions: how these far-reaching global and continental changes have affected African economies and are likely to shape them over the coming decade, and what this means for the design and implementation of industrial policy going forward.

The Forum will be held in a hybrid format. It will combine high-level panel discussions with breakaway sessions presenting academic research and analysis.

The TIPS Forum is held in partnership with the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI) at the University of Johannesburg, the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa (IDC) and the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance.



4 -5 August 2026



IDC, 82 Grayston Drive,
Sandton, JHB



online via Zoom



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NB: Please note that space is limited and you are requested to RSVP as soon as possible