



**AFRICAN SEZs
ANNUAL MEETING**
Luanda . ANGOLA | November 26 . 28 . 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

OVERVIEW

African Special Economic Zones have continuously proved their potential in leveraging FDIs and accelerating industrialization. As tools for economic diversification and job creation, SEZs perfectly illustrate successful and pragmatic collaboration between public and private institutions, particularly in the context of fostering sustainable industrial investment and global value chain integration on the continent.

Nowadays, FDIs are facing a challenging future, with declining inflows and simultaneous geopolitical crises threatening the global balance and weighing down investors' enthusiasm for cross-border expansion. This, in turn, limits the social and economic spillovers resulting from industrial activity within SEZs. The landscape for global investments is shifting rapidly, and countries are competing to find their rightful place within new value chains. This creates several challenges, but also opportunities.

In this context, advanced infrastructure and good governance are the main imperatives to implement successful special economic zones and attract FDIs.

The stakes are on leveraging SEZs as a tool to attract impactful, high-added-value investments, effectively increasing their competitiveness among global value chains and contributing to more inclusive and productive industries. As is the case in different regions of the world, current and past events have closely affected Africa's industrial development trajectory, each contributing to a complex landscape of African economies. Inflation, disruptions to health-care systems, and food and energy insecurities are among the most concerning issues that were amplified in previous years.

Globally, persistent shortages of critical components have disrupted value chains, slowed manufacturing, and strained economies dependent on industrial production and commodity exports. In this context, Africa presents a compelling investment opportunity. With its wealth of natural resources and a growing, skilled workforce, the continent is well-positioned to emerge as a strategic hub for sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, information and communication technologies (ICT), and large-scale manufacturing.

Hence, collective effort must shift towards creating a viable business environment, with particular focus on :

- Reinforcing weak infrastructure and encouraging sustainable practices
- Restructuring governance models and establishing relevant policies based on inclusivity
- Supporting capacity building and knowledge sharing
- Fostering innovation and new technologies in the context of digitization
- Boosting logistic corridors and intra-regional trade



AFRICAN ECONOMIC ZONES ANNUAL MEETING 2025

The African Union Commission (AUC) and Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) is holding the African SEZs Annual Meeting 2025, a premier gathering point, where stakeholders converge each year to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and drive forward the development of Special Economic Zones across the continent.

Taking place on **November 26th - 28th 2025 in Luanda, Angola**, under the theme: **“African SEZs: Catalyzing Sustainable Industrial Investment and Global Value Chains Integration”**.

The event will be hosted by the Luanda-Bengo SEZ (ZEE) in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Angola, in the presence of ministerial personalities, Senior representatives of the African SEZs community, big players from the private sector, and international institutions supporting the development of African SEZs.



Crucially, the joint program is set in light of **Angola's 50th Independence Anniversary**, lending the event both symbolic and strategic weight. This historic occasion presents an opportunity to reflect on Angola's development journey and showcase its vision for the future. Hosting these dual events in Luanda underscores Angola's emergence as a regional hub for investment and a leader in sustainable development on the African continent.

The African SEZs Annual Meeting 2025 will also host the African Sustainability Investment Summit (ASIS), a high-level platform for investors, policymakers, and partners to explore sustainable, inclusive investment opportunities across Africa.

This year's edition of the African SEZs Annual Meeting aims to reinvigorate the status quo and kick-start a new era of sustainable development in Africa, in perfect tandem with Angola's strategic vision of leading industrial growth in the region. This gathering is a unique platform dedicated to addressing the critical role of SEZs in shaping Africa's economic landscape. The aim being to attract sustainable investments and promote regional value chain integration, the two events are expected to inspire and drive impactful investments, redefine competitiveness, and promote holistic and green development strategies across the continent.

The African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2025 will offer strategic guidance and foster an open, solution-oriented dialogue on cross-cutting issues related to the role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in accelerating innovative industrial development:

I Attracting Sustainable and Impactful Investments to the continent : Explore the role that FDIs hold in reinforcing regional industrial linkages, all while promoting and maintaining sustainability imperatives.

I Logistics and Value Chain Integration : How can African SEZs support the development of infrastructure capable of upscaling African Economies into Global Value Chains.

I Building Intelligent Infrastructure in SEZs : Focus on the necessary infrastructure upgrades, such as 5G networks and data centers, to support industrial activity and secure sustainable investments.

I Workforce Development for SEZs : Strategies for upskilling the workforce to integrate large-scale manufacturing and attract cutting-edge technology investments.

I Regulatory Frameworks for new technologies : Examine how policies can be adapted to foster technology innovation essential for creating a viable environment for industrial growth.

I Sustainability as a Core Pillar of Modern African SEZs : Discuss the integration of circular economy principles, eco-industrial parks, and sustainable urban planning in SEZ development.

I Financing Sustainable SEZs : Introduce innovative financing mechanisms such as green bonds and climate funds to support the sustainable development of SEZs.

I Policy and Governance for a New Generation of SEZs : Examine how African governments can create conducive environments for socially inclusive and sustainable SEZs.



MODALITY & EVENT FLOW

The Africa Sustainable Investment Summit and the 10th Annual AEZO Meeting will be convened as two interlinked but distinct platforms, each with specific goals aligned to Africa's broader development agenda — and together designed to create a powerful space for collaboration, alignment and investment mobilization.

The three-day event will include a high-level opening session followed by thematic panel discussions and in-focus outlook sessions combining government representatives and private operators. Evenings will be dedicated to interactive workshop sessions and networking appointments.

The agenda also includes site visits, distribution of AEZO Awards in recognition of key African SEZs and their significant contribution to the community, as well as other manifestations to culminate international cooperation between the different stakeholders.

The program will focus on creating a welcoming atmosphere to encourage experience sharing and developing budding partnerships among all parties involved. We aim to facilitate the conception of numerous collaboration opportunities inspired by this year's theme, and the mission of our organization.

PARTICIPATION

This year's edition will gather more than 300 participants to follow the deliberations and interact with eminent experts, academia, policymakers, financial institutions, and C-level representatives from Economic Zones and Investment Promotion Agencies.

For pre-registration, please click on the following link : <https://forms.gle/smuQBshV7oS3r6we6>

DATES AND VENUE

Dates: November 26th – 28th 2025

Location: Epic Sana Luanda Hotel, Rua da Missão, Luanda, Angola.

Luanda, the capital of Angola, is a rapidly transforming city that stands as a vital political, economic, and industrial center in Southern Africa. Located along the Atlantic coast, Luanda has a rich history dating back to its founding by the Portuguese in 1576, and today it is emerging as a key player in the region's industrial and infrastructural development. Following the end of Angola's civil war in 2002, Luanda has experienced significant urban and economic renewal, positioning itself as a strategic gateway for trade and investment.

The city is home to many large industrial development projects, namely the Port of Luanda, one of the busiest on the West African coast, complemented by the Luanda Railway and a new international airport under development, which will be one of Africa's largest. These projects are central to Angola's efforts to diversify its economy beyond oil and expand its industrial base.

Luanda also hosts the Luanda-Bengo Special Economic Zone (ZEE), a flagship initiative driving manufacturing and attracting foreign investment. With its growing infrastructure, improving regulatory environment, and access to vast natural resources, Luanda offers a compelling platform for international industrial partnerships. The city is ready to welcome global stakeholders looking to engage with one of Africa's most promising emerging markets.

EVENT ORGANIZERS

The African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2025 is co-organized with the AU Commission for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals. This year, the event will take place in Luanda, Angola, in parallel with the Africa Sustainable Investment Summit (ASIS).



HOST COUNTRY

This year's edition will be held with the support of our Angolan member, represented by Luanda Bengo Special Economic Zone (ZEE), as well as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.



PARTNERS

Special thanks to our supporting institutional partners, who have contributed heavily to the organization of this year's edition:

TANGER MED



MEDIA PARTNER

QUADRIAN

DIRECT INVESTMENT
Fingar

ANNIVERSARY
2015 . 2025

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ABOUT AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION « AUC »

The African Union Commission (AUC) is the executive organ of the African Union (AU), responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Union's policies and decisions. As the central institution of the AU, the AUC is at the forefront of realizing the African Union's vision of an integrated, peaceful, and prosperous Africa.

Through its various departments and programs, the AUC is committed to driving continental economic development and social progress, fostering cooperation among Member States, and addressing the challenges facing the continent, including conflict resolution, human rights, and sustainable development.

ABOUT AFRICA ECONOMIC ZONES ORGANIZATION « AEZO »

Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) is a continental association representing leading public and private institutions in charge of the development, management, and promotion of Economic Zones in Africa.

Founded in November 2015 by Tanger Med Group - Morocco, the Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) is striving to support African Economic Zones projects and strengthen relationships within its ecosystem.

Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) is guided by its strategic orientations to "foster collective knowledge sharing, provide strategic and technical assistance, connect with the international business network and promote sustainable economic models and practices".

AEZO comprehends today **97 members** representing **47 countries**.

ABOUT THE AFRICAN SEZs ANNUAL MEETING

Held annually, the African SEZs Annual Meeting is the Flagship event of the Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO), bringing together governmental representatives, international experts, and senior executives to offer broad-based insights on critical issues related to the development of Economic Zones in Africa.

Through the get-together initiatives, AEZO provides its members a unique opportunity to develop networking, build strong business alliances, and access key international decision-makers.



2015
1st EDITION
Tangier, MOROCCO



2017
2nd EDITION
Dubai, UAE



2018
3rd EDITION
Abidjan,
COTE D'HIVOIRE



2019
4th EDITION
Addis Abeba,
ETHIOPIA



2020
5th EDITION
Virtual



2021
6th EDITION
Accra, GHANA



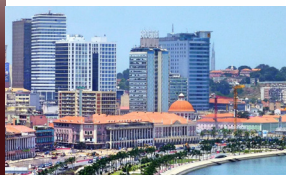
2022
7th EDITION
Abuja, NIGERIA



2023
8th EDITION
Tangier, MOROCCO



2024
9th EDITION
Nairobi, KENYA



2025
10th EDITION
Luanda, ANGOLA





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