



Newsflash

XVI-03-2025

www.uj.ac.za/cbe



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
AND ECONOMICS

‘The Future of Industrial Development in Africa’

DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI)

On 26 March 2025, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) together with the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI-ID) in the College of Business and Economics at the University of Johannesburg and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) co-organized the Industrial Development Report 2024 Launch for Africa focused on Accelerating the Achievement of the SDGs in Africa through Modern Industrial Policy. The event was titled ‘The Future of Industrial Development in Africa’. The aim of the discussions is to exchange knowledge and best practices on industrial policy and its coordination and integration in the region for the achievement of the United Nations SDGs.

Dr Alejandro Lavopa (UNIDO) and Prof Fiona Tregenna (SARChI-ID - University of Johannesburg), presented the main findings and messages from the Industrial Development Report. Four regional experts presented their own experiences and discussed how forward-looking industrial policy can support structural transformation for SDG acceleration.

Background

“The global poly-crisis (COVID-19, armed conflicts and climate change-induced catastrophes) has severely impacted livelihoods worldwide. Consequently, unemployment, poverty and hunger have increased. The prospects for recovery are further complicated by ongoing trends such as rapid technological change, a growing global population, rapid environmental degradation and heightened political tensions, presenting new challenges, especially for the developing world. In this volatile environment, the industrial sector plays a pivotal role given its strong linkages to other societal and environmental goals. When industrial policy is aligned with the SDGs, it can ignite innovation, create decent jobs and contribute to climate change mitigation.”



Image: Copyright & Courtesy of UNIDO

