

# Africa's next 'industrial decade' - 1 Aug 2016

BY LOUISE MARSLAND

The United Nations has declared 2016-2025 as the [Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa](#). What this means for the continent is renewed focus and support for inclusive and sustainable industrial development to further economic diversification and job creation to reduce poverty; and contribute to the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the continent, which all African Union states are party to.

Despite the global economic slowdown and [worst drought in 35 years](#), Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world, according to [EY '2016 Africa attractiveness program, Staying the course'](#). This is due to investment into new and existing projects, as well as new investors.

There's a strong focus this past week in Africa on digital transformation and the explosion in the smartphone market which is leading to a revolution in the app service culture in Africa as well as video. Top mobile brands have also come together to reduce the [mobile gender gap](#) by 2020 and connect women to the mobile internet and mobile money.

It's a short week for us in South Africa as we vote in our local government elections on Wednesday, which has been declared a public holiday.

Have a great week!

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