

## **Abstract**

Clusters of enterprises are a familiar sight in Africa: informal vegetable markets occupying road reserves; groups of carpenters making furniture at the edge of a housing estate; vehicle repairers and metalworkers in giant open-air workshops; and groups of garment makers operating side by side in market stalls. The physical closeness of such enterprises should enable them to share information and gain easy access to suppliers, traders, and customers. Enterprises in clusters should also be better able to co-operate on common problems and issues of concern. In the language of cluster studies, clustering should encourage joint action.