

Function and composition of the Bureau of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

I. Overview of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

1. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is an annual, intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder platform, organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and a member State that has volunteered to host the Forum, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and various entities of the United Nations system. It brings together ministers, senior officials, experts and practitioners from ECA member States, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and United Nations entities.

2. The overall objective of the Regional Forum is to follow-up on and review the progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. It is also intended to facilitate peer learning and promote transformative solutions and action to accelerate the implementation of the two agendas.

II. Function of the Bureau of the Regional Forum

3. The proceedings and work of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development are overseen and guided by a Bureau that is composed of representatives of five ECA member States. The main functions of the Bureau, which is supported by the ECA secretariat, are:

(a) To steer in-session deliberations at the Regional Forum and, in so doing, ensure the active and inclusive participation of all stakeholders and the adoption of the Forum's outcomes (key messages and declaration);

(b) To follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of the Regional Forum and report on progress made in that regard during the subsequent session of the Forum;

(c) To present and advocate the outcomes of the Regional Forum at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and at other global, regional, subregional and national conferences or meetings.

III. Composition of the Bureau of the Regional Forum

4. The Bureau of the Regional Forum comprises five members: the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur. They are elected on the basis of equitable geographic representation. The structure of the Bureau of the Regional Forum mirrors that of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development (which, at its sixth session, was renamed the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development), which was charged with similar responsibilities.

5. The history of the membership in the Bureaux of each session of the Forum and its predecessor is presented in table 1 (see annex). A consolidated view of the frequency with which the subregions have held various positions in the Bureaux is set out in table 2 (see annex). A detailed presentation of the frequency with which the member States and subregions have been represented in each of the positions of the Bureaux is provided in table 3 (see annex).



IV. Composition of the Bureau of the ninth session

6. By tradition, the subregion of the outgoing Chair is designated as Rapporteur of the following session, and the other subregions move up one step on the ladder of Bureau positions. In addition, the hosting subregion is the Chair of the Bureau except when the meeting is hosted at the headquarters of the secretariat. Accordingly, the following composition of the Bureau for the ninth session of the Regional Forum is proposed:

Chair:	West Africa
First Vice-Chair:	North Africa
Second Vice-Chair:	Southern Africa
Third Vice-Chair:	Central Africa
Rapporteur:	East Africa

7. In the selection of member States for positions in the Bureau of the ninth session, the analyses in tables 2 and 3 may be used as a guide. Member States are encouraged to elect to the Bureau countries represented at the ninth session that have not previously served in the Bureaux (13 countries)¹ or that have served in the Bureaux less frequently than have other countries.

¹ *Central Africa:* Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe; *East Africa:* Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Madagascar; *North Africa:* Libya; *Southern Africa:* Eswatini, Mozambique; *West Africa:* Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Sierra Leone.

Annex

Table 1

Membership in the Bureaux of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the Committee on Sustainable Development / Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development

Meeting or session	Dates and venue	Bureau members	Corresponding subregions
First meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	25–29 January 1999, Addis Ababa	Chair: United Republic of Tanzania First Vice-Chair: Côte d'Ivoire Second Vice-Chair: South Africa Rapporteur: Cameroon	Chair: East Africa First Vice-Chair: West Africa Second Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa ^a Rapporteur: Central Africa
Second meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	26–29 November 2001, Addis Ababa	Chair: Zambia First Vice-Chair: Chad Second Vice-Chair: Burkina Faso Third Vice-Chair: Tunisia Rapporteur: Uganda	Chair: Southern Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: West Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Third meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	7–10 October 2003, Addis Ababa	Chair: Egypt First Vice-Chair: South Africa Second Vice-Chair: Ethiopia Third Vice-Chair: Congo Rapporteur: Ghana	Chair: North Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: East Africa Third Vice-Chair: Central Africa Rapporteur: West Africa
Fourth meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	24–28 October 2005, Addis Ababa	Chair: Nigeria First Vice-Chair: Congo Second Vice-Chair: Algeria Third Vice-Chair: South Africa Rapporteur: United Republic of Tanzania	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: North Africa Third Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Fifth meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development	22–25 October 2007, Addis Ababa	Chair: Kenya First Vice-Chair: Namibia Second Vice-Chair: Democratic Republic of the Congo Third Vice-Chair: Sudan Rapporteur: Senegal	Chair: East Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: West Africa
Sixth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development	27–30 October 2009, Addis Ababa	Chair: South Africa First Vice-Chair: Democratic Republic of the Congo Second Vice-Chair: Morocco Third Vice-Chair: Gambia Rapporteur: Mauritius	Chair: Southern Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: North Africa Third Vice-Chair: West Africa Rapporteur: East Africa

Meeting or session	Dates and venue	Bureau members	Corresponding subregions
Seventh session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development	20–23 October 2011, Addis Ababa	Chair: Congo First Vice-Chair: Somalia Second Vice-Chair: Botswana Third Vice-Chair: Benin Rapporteur: Sudan	Chair: Central Africa First Vice-Chair: East Africa Second Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Third Vice-Chair: West Africa Rapporteur: North Africa
Eighth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development	19–21 November 2012, Addis Ababa	Chair: Congo First Vice-Chair: Egypt Second Vice-Chair: Liberia Third Vice-Chair: Uganda Rapporteur: Malawi	Chair: Central Africa First Vice-Chair: North Africa Second Vice-Chair: West Africa Third Vice-Chair: East Africa Rapporteur: Southern Africa
Ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development and the first session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	16–18 June 2015, Addis Ababa	Chair: Senegal First Vice-Chair: Sudan Second Vice-Chair: Gabon Third Vice-Chair: Kenya Rapporteur: Malawi	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: North Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: East Africa Rapporteur: Southern Africa
Second session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	17–19 May 2016, Cairo	Chair: Egypt First Vice-Chair: Liberia Second Vice-Chair: South Sudan Third Vice-Chair: Zambia Rapporteur: Burundi	Chair: North Africa First Vice-Chair: West Africa Second Vice-Chair: East Africa Third Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Rapporteur: Central Africa
Third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	17–19 May 2017, Addis Ababa	Chair: Togo First Vice-Chair: Seychelles Second Vice-Chair: Zimbabwe Third Vice-Chair: Congo Rapporteur: Algeria	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: East Africa Second Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Third Vice-Chair: Central Africa Rapporteur: North Africa
Fourth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	2–4 May 2018, Dakar	Chair: Senegal First Vice-Chair: Lesotho Second Vice-Chair: Cameroon Third Vice-Chair: Mauritania Rapporteur: Uganda	Chair: West Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: East Africa
Fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	16–18 April 2019, Marrakech, Morocco	Chair: Morocco First Vice-Chair: Angola Second Vice-Chair: Chad Third Vice-Chair: Uganda Rapporteur: Guinea	Chair: North Africa First Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Second Vice-Chair: Central Africa Third Vice-Chair: East Africa Rapporteur: West Africa

Meeting or session	Dates and venue	Bureau members	Corresponding subregions
Sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	24–27 February 2020, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	Chair: Zimbabwe First Vice-Chair: Democratic Republic of the Congo Second Vice-Chair: Uganda Third Vice-Chair: Liberia Rapporteur: Morocco	Chair: Southern Africa First Vice-Chair: Central Africa Second Vice-Chair: East Africa Third Vice-Chair: West Africa Rapporteur: North Africa
Seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	1–4 March 2021, Brazzaville	Chair: Congo First Vice-Chair: Kenya Second Vice-Chair: Niger Third Vice-Chair: Algeria Rapporteur: Zimbabwe	Chair: Central Africa First Vice-Chair: East Africa Second Vice-Chair: West Africa Third Vice-Chair: North Africa Rapporteur: Southern Africa
Eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	3–5 March 2022, Kigali	Chair: Rwanda First Vice-Chair: Cabo Verde Second Vice-Chair: Morocco Third Vice-Chair: Namibia Rapporteur: Congo	Chair: East Africa First Vice-Chair: West Africa Second Vice-Chair: North Africa Third Vice-Chair: Southern Africa Rapporteur: Central Africa

^a This figure reflects the addition to the total for North Africa for the position of Third Vice-Chair the assumed representation by a North African country in the role of Third Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development.

Table 2

Frequency of representation of subregions in the Bureaux, 1999–2022

Position in the Bureau	Frequency of tenure by subregion					
	Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa	Total
Chair	3	3	3	3	4	16
First Vice-Chair	4	3	2	4	3	16
Second Vice-Chair	4	3	3	3	3	16
Third Vice-Chair	2	3	5	3	3	16
Rapporteur	2	4	3	4	3	16
Total	15	16	16	17	16	80

Table 3

Representation of member States and subregions in the Bureaux of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and its predecessor, 1999–2022

	Number of times position held					
	Chair	First Vice-Chair	Second Vice-Chair	Third Vice-Chair	Rapporteur	Total
Central Africa						
Cameroon	–	–	1	–	1	2
Central African Republic	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chad	–	1	1	–	–	2
Congo	3	1	–	2	1	7
Democratic Republic of the Congo	–	2	1	–	–	3
Equatorial Guinea	–	–	–	–	–	–
Gabon	–	–	1	–	–	1
Sao Tome and Principe	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sub-total	3	4	4	2	2	15
East Africa						
Burundi	–	–	–	–	1	1
Comoros	–	–	–	–	–	–
Djibouti	–	–	–	–	–	–
Eritrea	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ethiopia	–	–	1	–	–	1
Kenya	1	1	–	1	–	3
Madagascar	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rwanda	1	–	–	–	–	1
Seychelles	–	1	–	–	–	1
Somalia	–	1	–	–	–	1
South Sudan	–	–	1	–	–	1
United Republic of Tanzania	1	–	–	–	1	2
Uganda	–	–	1	2	2	5
Sub-total	3	3	3	3	4	16
North Africa						
Algeria	–	–	1	1	1	3
Egypt	2	1	–	–	–	3
Libya	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mauritania	–	–	–	1	–	1
Morocco	1	–	2	–	1	4
Sudan	–	1	–	1	1	3
Tunisia	–	–	–	1	–	1
Total	3	2	3	5^a	3	16

	Number of times position held					
	Chair	First Vice-Chair	Second Vice-Chair	Third Vice-Chair	Rapporteur	Total
Southern Africa						
Angola	–	1	–	–	–	1
Botswana	–	–	1	–	–	1
Eswatini	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lesotho	–	1	–	–	–	1
Malawi	–	–	–	–	2	2
Mauritius	–	–	–	–	1	1
Mozambique	–	–	–	–	–	–
Namibia	–	1	–	1	–	2
South Africa	1	1	1	1	–	4
Zambia	1	–	–	1	–	2
Zimbabwe	1	–	1	–	1	3
Sub-total	3	4	3	3	4	17
West Africa						
Benin	–	–	–	1	–	1
Burkina Faso	–	–	1	–	–	1
Cabo Verde	–	1	–	–	–	1
Côte d'Ivoire	–	1	–	–	–	1
Gambia	–	–	–	1	–	1
Ghana	–	–	–	–	1	1
Guinea	–	–	–	–	1	1
Guinea-Bissau	–	–	–	–	–	–
Liberia	–	1	1	1	–	3
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	–
Niger	–	–	1	–	–	1
Nigeria	1	–	–	–	–	1
Senegal	2	–	–	–	1	3
Sierra Leone	–	–	–	–	–	–
Togo	1	–	–	–	–	1
Sub-total	4	3	3	3	3	16
Grand total	16	16	16	16	16	80

^a This figure reflects the addition to the total for North Africa for the position of Third Vice-Chair the assumed representation by a North African country in the role of Third Vice-Chair at the first meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development.