



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Ninth session
Niamey (hybrid), 28 February–2 March 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

High-level panel 1: From Africa to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit: priorities to address multiple crises and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 1

I. Date, time and venue

1. The first high-level panel dialogue will be held on Tuesday, 28 February 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Plenary Hall.

II. Introduction

2. The theme of the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is “Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union”.
3. The timing and theme of the present session of the Forum are of great significance. The Forum is being held almost midway into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with less than eight years remaining in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. Most assessments indicate that Africa and the world at large are not on track to achieve most of the Goals. For Africa, this lag in implementation is the result of several factors, including the dire impact of climate change, which have been compounded by the overlapping effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, the growing debt distress in many African countries and the war in Ukraine. For the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved, these bottlenecks need to be addressed decisively and progress needs to be ramped up dramatically. The Forum therefore offers a timely opportunity to identify and promote bolder transformative initiatives and actions.
4. The ninth session of the Forum coincides with the end of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and the start of the second 10-year plan. In line with its theme, the Forum therefore also offers an opportunity for participants to take

* ECA/RFSD/2023/1.



stock of the progress made, good practices and lessons learned and to identify workable programmes and actions to feed into and advance implementation of the second 10-year plan and ensure that the aspirations of Agenda 2063 are achieved.

5. The timing of the Forum is also of special significance because, in addition to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, which will be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the second Sustainable Development Goals Summit will also be held in 2023, under the auspices of the General Assembly. The latter will bring together Heads of State and Government, among other stakeholders, to undertake a comprehensive review of both progress and shortcomings in the achievement of the Goals around the world.

6. It is against this backdrop that the first high-level panel discussion is being held as part of the ninth session of the Forum.

III. Objective

7. The high-level panel will set the tone for the Regional Forum by provide high-level perspectives and setting high-level priorities in respect of the following:

(a) Impactful policies, programmes and other actions to be implemented at various levels to accelerate progress towards the Goals for Africa to achieve an inclusive and green recovery from the various crises and to fully implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(b) Priorities and inputs of Africa for the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

IV. Guidelines

8. The Chair will outline the aforementioned objectives of the high-level panel and introduce the moderator, keynote speaker, presenter and panel members listed in section V. The Chair will then yield to the moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and other Forum participants.

9. The moderator will:

(a) Invite a representative of the African Union Commission to deliver a 15-minute keynote address on the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the second 10-year implementation plan;

(b) Invite a representative of ECA to make a 10-minute presentation on the highlights of the *2023 Africa Sustainable Development Report*;

(c) Invite each panellist to speak for no longer than 3 minutes on one or more of the key questions listed in paragraph 10, below;

(d) Request that the panellists focus their statements on:

(i) Innovative and transformative policies, programmes and other actions to drive an inclusive recovery from the various crises (climate change, COVID-19, growing debt distress among African countries and the war in Ukraine);

(ii) Priorities of Africa for the 2023 high-level political forum and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit;

(e) Help foster an interactive discussion among the panellists on key issues, actions and solutions emerging from the remarks made by the panellists;

(f) Following the panel discussion, invite questions and other comments from the floor on the topics under discussion;

(g) At the end of the discussion, summarize the key policy messages, including recommendations made;

(h) Yield to the Chair, who will conclude the discussion.

10. During the discussion, the moderator will invite the panellists to address one or more of the following questions:

(a) What are the lessons learned and what targeted and transformative policies, programmes and investments should countries and regional stakeholders make to accelerate an inclusive recovery from the various crises and ensure full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

(b) How can the international community help to address the unique challenges faced by African countries as they work towards attaining the Goals?

(c) What role should the private sector play and how can the private sector be better mobilized and engaged to make progress in implementing the two agendas?

(d) What are the priorities of Africa for the 2023 high-level political forum and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit to galvanize international attention and commitment to address the various crises and achieving the Goals by 2030?

(e) What support should the United Nations system and other development partners provide to speed up implementation at scale?

V. Chair, moderator, keynote speaker, presenter and panellists

11. The Chair, moderator, keynote speaker, presenter and high-level panellists will be as follows:

Chair: Member of the Bureau of the ninth session of the Forum

Moderator: Xxxxx

Keynote speaker on behalf of the African Union Commission: Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, Albert Muchanga

Presenter on behalf of ECA: Director, Macroeconomic and Governance Division, Adam Elhiraika

Panellists:

- Executive Secretary a.i., ECA, Antonio Pedro
- President, African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina (or a representative)
- Minister for Economic Planning and International Partnerships (Chad), Madeleine Alingue
- Minister for Environment and the Fight against Desertification (Niger), Garama Saratou Rabiou Inoussa
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx