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Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Tenth session
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 23–25 April 2024
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*
**Organizational matters: adoption of the agenda and
programme of work**

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session

1. The opening of the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be moderated by the Acting Director of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Nassim Oulmane. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the ninth session of the Regional Forum will preside.

2. Statements will be delivered by the following: the Executive Secretary of ECA, Claver Gatete; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau of the Regional Forum; a representative of the African Development Bank; a representative of the African Union Commission; the Prime Minister of Uganda, Robinah Nabbanja; the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed; and the President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. The President of Ethiopia, Sahle-Work Zewde, or her representative, will open the session.

2. High-level panel 1: Stepping up ambition and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/4/Rev.1
Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions – concept note

ECA/RFSD/2024/10/Rev.1
Summary of the report on African progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

ECA/RFSD/2024/INF/4
Information and guidelines for high-level panel 1

* ECA/RFSD/2024/1/Rev.3.



3. High-level panel 1 will set the tone for, and provide high-level policy perspectives and guidance on, priorities, investments and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals alongside the second 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063, in the context of multiple crises. In so doing, the panel dialogue will also highlight existing and explore potential concrete and innovative policies and actions that can move forward, among other outcomes, those of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in 2023 and of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

4. The panel will have a chair and moderator, along with high-level policymakers, scientists, practitioners and eminent persons. The panel discussions will be informed by a keynote address on the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its second 10-year implementation plan, and a presentation on the highlights of the *2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report* (forthcoming).

5. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

3. Organizational matters

(a) Election of the Bureau

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/INF/8/Rev.2

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

6. The outgoing Chair of the Bureau will conduct the election of the members of the Bureau for the tenth session of the Regional Forum. Before the elections, the secretariat will be invited to provide a brief overview of the role and history of the Bureau. The incoming Bureau will comprise five members (the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur), who will be elected on the basis of equitable geographic representation. Following the elections, consultations among the heads of delegations will take place to determine which specific members of ECA will represent their respective subregions, and the composition of the incoming Bureau will be announced. The newly elected Bureau members will be invited to assume their seats at the podium.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/1/Rev.3

Provisional agenda

ECA/RFSD/2024/2/Rev.3

Annotated provisional agenda

ECA/RFSD/2024/3/Rev.5

Draft programme of work

7. The Regional Forum will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda and the programme of work, subject to any amendments deemed necessary.

4. **High-level panel 2: The race to 2030 and beyond: leveraging the Summit of the Future to get back on track towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/4/Rev.1

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions – concept note

ECA/RFSD/2024/INF/6/Rev.2

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 2

8. High-level panel 2 will provide a platform for advocating and mobilizing wider stakeholder engagement in the Summit of the Future and generating African priorities for the proposed outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future”. The high-level panel will be focused on the unique occasion that the Summit offers to address current, emerging and future challenges and opportunities relating to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and overall sustainable development. It will offer an opportunity to highlight African priorities with regard to the following elements of “A Pact for the Future”, to be adopted by the Summit: sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance, as well as gender equality.

9. The high-level panel will have a chair and moderator, along with high-level policymakers and experts in the following areas: sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and governance, as well as gender equality, among others.

10. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

5. **High-level panel 3: Priorities of young people regarding the Summit of the Future and the reinforcement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/INF/3/Rev.2

Information and guidelines for high-level panel 3

11. This high-level panel is focused on youth and future generations, in the light of the importance that will be attached to the topic in the outcome document of the Summit for the Future, to be entitled “A Pact for the Future”.¹ The panel will provide an opportunity to mobilize the participation of African young people in the Summit, while at the same time seeking their views on the priorities to be considered there.

12. The panel will have a chair and moderator and will primarily comprise representatives of young people, along with some high-level policymakers and experts.

¹ See A/77/49 (Vol. III), decision 77/568.

13. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

6. Plenary round-table panel on voluntary national and local reviews and actions to reinforce institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/INF/1/Rev.2

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on voluntary national and local reviews and actions to reinforce institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

14. This round-table panel is designed to facilitate learning and strengthen practice in conducting and following up on voluntary national and local reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. To achieve this objective, the panel is expected to highlight good practices and challenges and exchange experiences and lessons learned in voluntary national and local reviews, in the context of multiple crises.

15. Panellists will also share insights about the linkages between voluntary national reviews and local reviews and how to leverage these reviews to reinforce institutions, policies, plans and budgets to speed up and scale up integrated implementation of the two agendas.

16. Moreover, the panel discussion will provide an opportunity to highlight the outcomes of the pre-event on voluntary national and local reviews.

17. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers and senior experts from the countries and localities involved in voluntary national and local reviews in previous years and in 2024, and from other countries in Africa that are front runners in the implementation of Agenda 2063. The panel will include representatives of young people and the private sector.

18. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

7. Plenary round-table panel on the transformation and modernization of statistical systems in order to produce high-quality data and statistics that can be used to track progress and reinforce national policies and plans to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/INF/2/Rev.2

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on the transformation and modernization of statistical systems in order to produce high-quality data and statistics that can be used to track progress and reinforce national policies and plans to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

19. This round-table panel will underscore the importance of high-quality data and statistics in the design and tracking of programmes to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 amid multiple crises.

20. The panel will also identify and explore innovations, tools and investments needed to generate, manage and use high-quality data and statistics for poverty eradication and to accelerate the implementation of the two agendas.

21. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising selected policymakers, experts, practitioners and other stakeholders involved in issues relating to data and statistics from various countries and partner organizations.

22. On the basis of selected questions posed by the moderator, the panellists will engage in an interactive discussion. Following the dialogue among the panellists, the moderator will invite members of the audience to pose follow-up questions and to make other relevant contributions from the floor.

8. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made, peer learning and acceleration actions regarding the sub-themes of the Regional Forum

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/INF/5

Information and guidelines for the parallel meetings on the sub-themes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

ECA/RFSD/2024/5/Rev.1

Background report on the sub-theme of no poverty

ECA/RFSD/2024/6/Rev.2

Background report on the sub-theme of zero hunger

ECA/RFSD/2024/7/Rev.1

Background report on the sub-theme of climate action

ECA/RFSD/2024/8/Rev.2

Background report on the sub-theme of peace, justice and strong institutions

ECA/RFSD/2024/9/Rev.1

Background report on the sub-theme of partnerships for the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

- (a) **No poverty**
- (b) **Zero hunger**
- (c) **Climate action**
- (d) **Peace, justice and strong institutions**
- (e) **Partnerships for the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

23. Five meetings on the sub-themes of the Forum will be held in parallel. The aim of the parallel meetings is threefold: to review in depth and facilitate peer learning on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with a special emphasis on the selected sub-themes; to identify and explore innovative and ambitious actions to eradicate poverty, rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda alongside the second 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063; and to identify, explore and agree on a set of key messages that offer policy options and other measures to promote the accelerated implementation of the two agendas, including by leveraging the Summit of the Future to create momentum in implementation.

24. The parallel meetings will be open to all participants in the Regional Forum, who may join any of the parallel meetings.

(f) Reports on the parallel meetings

25. Under this sub-item, representatives of members of ECA will give five-minute presentations on each of the parallel meetings to the plenary, highlighting the conclusions and agreed set of key messages arising from their discussions. Each presentation will be followed by a brief discussion, with a view to fine-tuning the proposed key messages.

9. Plenary round-table panel on leveraging science, technology, innovation and digital transformation for poverty reduction and reinforcement of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

26. This round-table panel will be focused on the importance and application of education, science, technology, innovation and digitalization in the eradication of poverty and the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

27. Deliberations during this round-table panel will capitalize on the outcomes of the following events that will precede the Regional Forum: the sixth African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum; a science, technology and innovation bootcamp for young people; a coding camp for African girls; and a hackathon to promote digital transformation.

10. Presentations and discussions on transformative pathways and ambitious actions for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

28. This agenda item will feature the following presentations followed by a general discussion.

(a) Presentation on transformational initiatives by entities of the United Nations development system to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

29. This sub-item will feature a presentation and discussion on the role of, and ongoing and planned interventions by, entities of the United Nations development system, including through opportunity and issue-based coalitions, with regard to supporting members of ECA, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission in accelerating the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063. In this connection, the sub-item will offer the opportunity to highlight actions led by entities of the United Nations development system to drive transitions in food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the associated 12 high-impact initiatives.

(b) Presentation on perspectives of major groups and other stakeholders with regard to reinforcing and accelerating implementation of the two agendas

30. Under this sub-item, a presentation highlighting the outcomes of the preparatory and capacity-development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders in Africa will be followed by a discussion featuring perspectives from civil society, the private sector and academia on measures to deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises.

(c) **Presentation on the transformation of food systems as an accelerator for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa**

31. Under this sub-item, a presentation will be given highlighting the outcomes of the pre-session meeting on the review of progress made in transforming food systems in Africa and the opportunities to advance food systems transformation, eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

(d) **Presentation of commitments and actions to accelerate the delivery of sustainable development**

32. This sub-item is aimed at showcasing, inspiring and scaling up transformative actions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in line with the political declaration adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” and the second 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063. Under this sub-item, members of ECA, major groups, United Nations entities and other development partners will be invited to present their commitments and actions to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the two agendas.

11. Consideration and adoption of key messages and the Addis Ababa declaration on the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and to eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises

Documentation

ECA/RFSD/2024/L.1

Draft summary report and key messages of the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

ECA/RFSD/2024/L.2

Draft Addis Ababa declaration on the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to reinforce the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and to eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises

33. For the consideration of participants in the tenth session of the Regional Forum, the Rapporteur of the Bureau will present the key messages of the Forum and the Addis Ababa declaration on effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to reinforce the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union and to eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises. The key messages and the declaration will represent the collective African input to the 2024 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Summit of the Future.

12. Theme, dates and venue of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

34. The secretariat will present proposals on the theme, dates and venue of the eleventh session of the Regional Forum for consideration by the participants. The theme will be aligned with that of the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development, which is yet to be announced.

13. Other matters

35. The Regional Forum may wish to consider any other matters that are brought to its attention.

14. Closing of the session

36. The Chair of the Bureau of the tenth session of the Regional Forum will summarize the main outcomes of the deliberations. Closing remarks will follow by Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme Support) of ECA, Antonio Pedro. The Chair will then conclude the proceedings and declare the tenth session closed.
