

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
11 March 2026

Original: English

**Economic Commission for Africa
Committee of Experts of the Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**
Forty-fourth meeting

Tangier, Morocco (hybrid), 28–30 March 2026

**Economic Commission for Africa
Conference of African Ministers of Finance,
Planning and Economic Development**
Fifty-eighth session

Tangier, Morocco (hybrid), 2 and 3 April 2026

Information note for participants

Introduction

The fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will consist of the annual meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, followed by side events and the ministerial segment. During the session, the Conference of African Ministers will consider various statutory matters. The session is one of the main forums in Africa for African ministers responsible for finance, planning and economic development and governors of central banks to discuss issues pertinent to the development agenda of Africa.

The session will be held in person, at the Palais des Arts et de la Culture in Tangier, Morocco, and online, from 28 March to 3 April 2026. General information to help in-person attendees to plan their travel to Tangier and their participation is provided below.

Participants are encouraged to keep a copy of the present information note with them throughout the session.

To keep costs down and to protect the environment, the present document will be provided in electronic format only. Additional information can be found on the web page for the session, at www.uneca.org/eca-events/cfm2026.

Overview

At the fifty-eighth session, the theme of which is “Growth through innovation: harnessing data and frontier technologies for the economic transformation of Africa”, the Commission will explore the role of frontier technologies in enhancing sectoral productivity and growth, as well as opportunities, challenges and policy options for transforming African economies through innovation-led growth strategies. As part of the deliberations, participants will present empirical evidence of the impact of innovation on economic growth and development, trends in the adoption of frontier technologies in Africa and evidence of the centrality of innovative data in evidence-based decision-making.

In addition to exploring the transformative potential of frontier technologies, participants will examine challenges in data governance, address the risks of technological dependency and exclusion (including reliance on external cloud providers, limited domestic capacity to develop or adapt artificial intelligence models and fragmented regulatory approaches) and



identify pathways for Africa to assert digital sovereignty and enhance its role in global governance frameworks.

Seasoned and high-level experts from within and outside Africa will engage on these and related issues, leading to outcomes and decisions that will have transformative implications for the ways in which members of ECA can leverage data and frontier technologies for growth and economic transformation in the region.

The session will begin with the Committee of Experts, to be held from 28 to 30 March 2026, followed by side events on 31 March and 1 April and then the ministerial segment, which will be held on 2 and 3 April. The ministerial segment will include a high-level policy dialogue on the theme of the session, the launch of the Sustainable Health Financing Initiative, the annual Adebayo Adedeji Memorial Lecture and round-table discussions on a series of sub-themes.

Letters of credentials

Delegations are kindly requested to submit to the Executive Secretary of ECA their letters of credentials, duly signed by the appropriate authorities of their respective Governments, as soon as possible, but not later than 25 March 2026.

Letters of credentials must indicate the names, titles and contact details of representatives nominated to attend the fifty-eighth session. They can be sent by email to eca-soc@un.org, with a copy to eca-uncc-aa@un.org. Originals sent by postal mail should be marked to the attention of the Executive Secretary and sent to the following address:

Office of the Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Africa
United Nations
9th Floor, Niger Building
Menelik II Avenue
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Questions regarding accreditation procedures should be directed to:

Secretary of the Commission
Office of the Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Africa
Email: eca-soc@un.org

Venue and accommodation

The proceedings will take place at the Palais des Arts et de la Culture, in the Malabata area of Tangier, Morocco. This modern, multipurpose cultural and conference complex, designed for high-level international events, features a main auditorium with 1,400 seats and two additional halls with 200 seats each. The complex has meeting and reception rooms, dedicated technical production spaces, two art galleries, training pavilions and on-site catering facilities, including a cafeteria and a restaurant café.

To ensure a comfortable stay for participants, a selection of recommended hotels has been compiled. The hotels listed in annex I offer a range of options to suit different preferences and budgets.

Participants are requested to use the link below to make their hotel booking. They are also requested to send a copy of their booking confirmation to Souhail Jamaoui at jamaoui@daag.finances.gov.ma (focal person in the host country).

Link for hotel bookings: <https://www.myonlineevent.com/COM2026>.

Participants may also contact their preferred hotels directly to arrange, confirm and guarantee bookings, sending Mr. Jamaoui a copy of the reservation. Participants are responsible for covering all costs associated with their accommodation.

Visa and immigration requirements

All meeting participants travelling to Morocco must hold a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the expected date of entry with at least two consecutive empty visa pages.

Meeting participants should check the visa requirements at www.acces-maroc.ma.

Members of official delegations, experts and other participants holding a national passport of a State Member of the United Nations who require a visa or electronic travel authorization to attend the conference in Morocco will be issued the necessary electronic documents online at www.acces-maroc.ma, where there will be a dedicated section for this purpose. Applicants should use the code OES/ADM01-16-18-09-23 on the registration ID field of the application form. Applicants must submit a copy of their passport, a passport photograph and their official invitation letters issued by the secretariat.

If an applicant submits the application at least 14 days before the start of the conference, the Government of Morocco will ensure that any electronic authorizations that are needed to enter the country are issued no later than one week before the start of the conference. If an application is submitted less than 14 days before the start of the conference, the Government will issue the entry authorization as soon as is reasonably possible.

To facilitate the issuance of entry authorizations, the secretariat of ECA will provide the Government with a list of participants, a sample registration confirmation and a sample invitation letter. It is understood that the Government will consider favourably, in accordance with applicable legislation, the entry authorization applications of participants whose names appear on the list.

The following documents are required for visa applications:

- (a) Completed visa application form;
- (b) Identity photos;
- (c) Identity card;
- (d) Passport (valid for six months beyond the arrival date in Morocco);
- (e) Letter of confirmation of participation delivered by the United Nations.

Sponsored participants will not be reimbursed for the visa fee, as it is covered by the daily subsistence allowance.

Airport reception and transport

Officers from the ECA Protocol and Liaison Unit, together with representatives of Morocco, will be present at Tangier Ibn Battouta Airport and Mohammed V International Airport (Casablanca) to provide assistance with immigration formalities and other required arrangements.

To the extent possible, the host country will arrange transport from the two airports to the hotels included on the list established by mutual agreement between ECA and the representatives of Morocco. Prior to their departure, participants should consult the transport plan that will be implemented by Morocco, with a view to making any necessary travel arrangements.

The host country will provide for participants a daily pick-up and drop-off service between the designated hotels and the meeting venue. Participants not staying at a designated hotel may also use this service, but will only be picked up and dropped off at the designated hotels.

Registration and identification badges

Online registration

Conference registration will be through a dedicated microsite on the Indico platform (<https://indico.un.org/event/1021509/>). Participants are advised to register for the conference as soon as possible, but no later than 20 March 2026, to facilitate the smooth coordination of the issuance of photographic identification badges and the compilation of the list of participants. This online registration is mandatory, in line with the standard United Nations security procedures required to facilitate security clearance. Only the names of duly registered participants will be included in the list of participants.

Participants are requested to use the following email address or mobile telephone number for any queries regarding registration or accreditation:

Email: tewolde.uneca@un.org

Telephone: +251 91 1305353

Badges

For security reasons, a valid badge must be worn at all times and be shown to gain access to the venue and meeting rooms. Badges can be collected from the registration counter, which will be open from 26 March to 2 April 2026 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and on 3 April 2026 between 8 a.m. and noon. Lost badges must be reported immediately to the registration counter.

Documentation

All participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own laptops or tablets. To reduce the environmental impact generated by the use of paper, participants are encouraged to consult digital versions of conference documents. All unrestricted official documents and statements related to the session will be available for download in the official languages of ECA (Arabic, English and French) on the PaperSmart portal, at <https://papersmart.uneca.org/meeting/entity/CoM%202026>.

The documents can also be downloaded from the official website of the session at www.uneca.org/eca-events/cfm2026/documents, under “Documents”.

A print-on-demand service will remain available to in-person participants during the session. Nonetheless, it is expected that requests for hard copies of documents will be made only when strictly necessary. Such requests

will be honoured on an exceptional basis. No more than five copies per document per delegation will be provided. Participants requiring printed copies should click on the “print-on-demand” button next to the document link and complete the request form on the PaperSmart portal.

Languages

For all proceedings, the working languages will be Arabic, English and French.

Currency

The official currency of Morocco is the Moroccan dirham. Visa, Mastercard and Diners Club International are the most widely accepted credit and debit cards in Morocco. UnionPay is accepted in some locations, such as malls and chain stores. American Express is less widely accepted. Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are also available. Discover cards may be accepted at some ATMs.

Electricity supply and voltage

The electricity supply in Morocco is 220 volts with a frequency of 50 Hz and alternating current (AC). Plug types C and E are used, as depicted below.



Type C



Type E

Mobile phone services

Maroc Telecom, Orange Morocco and Inwi are the main mobile phone companies in the country that offer prepaid SIM cards. Although these companies have roaming agreements with partners in many countries, it is generally recommended to use a local SIM or eSIM to avoid the potentially high roaming costs of participants' home carriers.

Travellers can obtain a local prepaid SIM card from one of these companies in Morocco or they can use a tourist-specific eSIM card for easy, immediate activation without the need to visit a physical store. Customers can purchase SIM cards and airtime at the airport or at stores in the city and must register their card in order to activate it. Registration can be done at the time of purchase. Customers must present their passport when purchasing a SIM card from authorized vendors. At least one of the telecommunication operators is expected to be present and selling SIM cards, airtime and mobile devices at the conference venue.

Health requirements

Participants are advised to ensure that all routine vaccinations are up to date four to six weeks before travelling to Morocco. Participants should check the validity of their vaccination cards, update them accordingly and carry them throughout their travel and stay.

Participants should bring any prescription medication that they take regularly, ensuring that they have a sufficient supply for the entire duration of their travel and stay. It is recommended to carry medication in its original packaging and a copy of the prescription.

Health insurance

All participants must obtain comprehensive travel health insurance covering:

- (a) Emergency medical care;
- (b) Hospitalization and surgery;
- (c) Medical evacuation and repatriation.

Participants should always carry a copy of their insurance policies and emergency contacts.

Health emergency contacts

United Nations Health Care Centre	+251 92 990 8433 / +251 11 544 3548
Dr. Sunita Panta (United Nations medical focal point)	+251 91 150 8218
Dr. Eyesusawit Shewangizaw	+251 91 122 1726
Head Nurse Kelemwork Kejela	+251 91 120 1803
Dr. Biruk Girma (United Nations medical focal point)	+251 90 403 2929
Hôpital Mohammed V Avenue Moulay Ismail Tangier	+212 53 994 2020

Local health emergency contacts

<i>Health facility</i>	<i>Focal point</i>	<i>Telephone number</i>
Physician liaison in Tangier	Dr. Mounir Marrakchi	+212 66 110 7537
SAMU/SMUR (local regional emergency service)	Professor Ounci Es-Saad	+212 65 105 5115
<i>Nearest hospitals</i>		
Hôpital Universitaire International Mohammed VI	Professor Amine Azghari	+212 66 672 7886
Hôpital Mohammed V	Dr. Mounir Marrakchi	+212 66 110 7537

Abbreviations: SAMU, urgent medical aid services; SMUR, mobile emergency and resuscitation services.

Procedures for media accreditation

All media representatives will require accreditation and equipment clearance from the host Government and the secretariat of the Conference.

All invited sponsored and self-sponsored media representatives travelling to Morocco must register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/1021509/>. Once registration is approved by the organizing team, an official invitation letter will be sent to facilitate the visa application process. Media representatives residing in countries without an embassy of Morocco will be advised on attendance modalities once their registration has been approved.

Invited media representatives will be required to submit a letter of assignment and one valid form of identification (for example, a press card or work identification card) as proof of their media affiliation to denekews.uneca@un.org. These items should also be presented upon check-in at the media desk in Tangier.

A media centre will be set up at the meeting venue to facilitate media coverage of the session. More information will be communicated directly to registered media representatives.

Media representatives travelling from outside Morocco will be required to complete an equipment form to facilitate customs clearance. The form will be shared upon request; such requests should be sent to denekews.uneca@un.org.

Media representatives based in Morocco, whether local or international, may register online through the Indico platform. All media will be required to present valid personal identifications, press identification and a letter of assignment at the designated media desk. Requests for more information can be sent to denekews.uneca@un.org closer to that time.

Internet

A free Wi-Fi Internet connection will be available in all areas of the conference venue. The Wi-Fi password will be communicated to all participants upon arrival at the venue and will be on display in all areas where participants gather.

Security advisory

Tangier is generally a safe city for travellers and conference activities. The Government of Morocco, in collaboration with the United Nations security team, will provide security services at the meeting venue. In addition, hotel security coverage will be arranged by the Government of Morocco.

Participants and visitors are advised to remain security-conscious, stay alert and vigilant, maintain a low profile, avoid going out alone where possible, refrain from unnecessary movement at night and report any incidents immediately to the security team.

General security guidance

While at the conference venue, participants should adhere to the following guidelines:

- After registering through the designated United Nations registration system, all meeting participants must present a valid photo identification card or passport to collect their badges, which will be distributed by United Nations security officers and the secretariat of the Commission at the registration, accreditation and badge distribution centre.
- Embassies are required to submit authorization letters to the Security and Safety Service and to the protocol and liaison focal persons for the collection of high-level officials' pins or badges. High-level officials are defined as ministers, ambassadors and anyone else at the same level, such as commissioners. A copy of a valid identification document issued to the high-level official should be presented along with the authorization letter.
- When registering, participants must spell their name exactly as it appears on their passport.
- All meeting participants and delegates must wear their badge visibly on the premises and in the conference rooms throughout the duration of the meeting.
- Participants are strongly advised not to lose their badges. If a lost badge is found, it should be reported to United Nations security personnel immediately.
- All meeting participants are subject to screening at security checkpoints and must comply with the instructions given by United Nations security officers and security personnel of the host Government.
- Meeting participants are not allowed to come to the conference rooms with infants or with other unauthorized persons.
- Bringing one's own food and beverages to the conference centre is prohibited.
- Participants are strongly advised to ensure that they have collected all their belongings when leaving the conference rooms. Items left behind may be confiscated or destroyed.
- Participants should look after their valuables and report the loss of any personal or official belongings at the conference centre immediately to the security officers.

Participants should adhere to the following safety advice in relation to their hotels:

- It is advisable to book a hotel room on the second or higher floors to enhance security.
- Guests should always lock the door after entering or leaving their hotel room.
- Guests should inspect their hotel room, before they go out to ensure that no money, jewellery, cameras or other valuables are visible. Any such items should be deposited at the reception desk, in return for a receipt, or be left in the safe in the hotel room.
- Any suspicious or unusual activity should be reported to the security personnel immediately.

Vehicle and pedestrian access

Participants are advised to take note of the following information about access to the conference venue:

- Entry and exit for Heads of States and Government, heads of delegation, ministers and officials at the same level is through the VVIP/VIP access route.
- After having properly completed the accreditation and registration process, meeting participants will be able to enter the conference centre only on the designated conference days. They must collect conference badges in a timely manner from the registration centre.
- Participants who have obtained a vehicle authorization permit in advance may enter through the main entrance of the venue, where they should collect their badge from the registration centre.
- Ministers will receive a pin in lieu of a badge, which may be collected from the pin distribution centre or from the relevant focal persons by designated officials of the ministers, such as their protocol assistants. Other high-level officials will need to collect a badge from the registration, accreditation and badge collection centre.

Firearms

It is strictly prohibited to carry firearms or sharp objects within the conference centre without the prior consent of the designated official or his or her authorized representative. Any such items discovered during a search will be confiscated by security officers or the security forces of Morocco.

The secretariat of the Conference is required to advise high-level officials to respect this international regulation and to inform close protection and protocol officers that they should fully cooperate and comply with the instructions of United Nations security personnel and the security forces of Morocco at all entry points.

About Morocco

Morocco is a country in north-west Africa. The city of Tangier is situated at an altitude of 145 m. The main ethnic groups in Morocco are Arabs and Berbers, but Morocco is also home to many Jews and people of sub-Saharan African descent. The main resources in the Moroccan economy are agriculture, phosphate minerals, tourism and fisheries. The economy is heavily driven by such exports as vehicles, electrical equipment and fertilizers. Other important exports include agricultural produce, textiles, and phosphates and their derivatives. Moroccans work primarily in services, agriculture and industry.

The main industries include automotive manufacturing, phosphate mining, food processing, textiles, construction and tourism. Information on selected tourist attractions in Tangier is provided in annex II.

Climate

The climate of Morocco varies greatly across its coast, interior and mountains. The coast – including Tangier – has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers, tempered by coastal winds, and mild, wetter winters; inland regions have a hotter and drier continental climate. Temperatures gradually increase in March and April, with mild daytime temperatures of about 20°C in Tangier. Participants should therefore check the forecast before travelling and bring layers in preparation for a range of conditions.

Time zone

The time zone in Tangier is GMT+1 all year long.

Annex I

Designated hotels in Tangier

<i>Hotel</i>	<i>Number of rooms available</i>	<i>Distance from meeting venue (km)</i>
Ibis Tanger City Center (3-star) Tel: +212 5393 28550 Email: h6812@accor.com	196	2.3
Ramada Encore by Wyndham (3-star) Tel: +212 5393 41300 / +212 6680 71455 Email: resa@ramadaencoretanger.com	150	1.9
Hilton Garden Inn Tanger City Center (4-star) Tel: +212 5393 09500 Email: tngcc_ds@hilton.com	80	2.7
Kenzi Solazur (4-star) Tel: +212 5393 48383 Email: resa.solazur@kenzi-hotels.com	180	4.4
Occidental Tanger (4-star) Tel: +212 5314 31012 Email: tanger.res@occidentalhotels.com	168	1.0
Idou Malabata (5-star) Tel: +212 5393 09055 Email: sales1@idoumalabata.com	120	1.7
Mövenpick Hotel and Casino Malabata Tanger (5-star) Tel: +212 5393 29300 Email: mouhcine.lahmini@movenpick.com	142 singles 4 suites	1.2
Pestana Tanger City Center (5-star) Tel: +212 5393 28923 Email: ayman.tayibii@pestana.com	75 single suites 15 premium suites	3.3
Grand Mogador Sea View (5-star) Tel: +212 5305 30530 Email: htangerresa@mogadorhotels.com	15 singles 15 doubles 15 junior suites	1.1

Farah Hotel (5-star)	120	2.1
Tel: +212 5393 43550		
Email: info@farahtanger.com		
Mandarin Palace Tangerang (5-star)	58	1.4
Tel: +212 6575 81492		
Email: sales@hotelmandarintanger.com		

Note: Bookings can be made using the booking platform (<https://www.myonlineevent.com/COM2026>) or by email to the respective hotel, with a copy to the focal person in the host country, Souhail Jamaoui (jamaoui@daag.finances.gov.ma). Participants must indicate that they are attending the “Conference of Ministers” and cite the code “EVENEMENT CEA” at the time of booking to secure negotiated rates.

Annex II

Selected tourist attractions in Tangier

<i>Attraction</i>	<i>Description</i>
Kasbah of Tangier	Historic fortress overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar, offering panoramic views and housing important cultural sites and museums.
Medina of Tangier	Historic district with narrow streets, traditional souks, local crafts and architecture, reflecting the multicultural richness of the city.
Cape Spartel	An iconic natural site where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Mediterranean Sea, featuring a historic lighthouse and remarkable coastal landscapes.
Caves of Hercules	Natural caves associated with ancient legends, known for their unique rock formations and their opening onto the Atlantic Ocean.
Corniche and Marina of Tangier	A modern seaside promenade featuring restaurants, cafés and leisure areas, offering views of the bay and the port.
Perdicaris Park (also known as Rmilat Park)	A large green space, ideal for walks and outdoor activities, valued for its biodiversity and historical importance.
