



Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Eighth session
Kigali (hybrid), 3–5 March 2022

Item 5 of the provisional agenda *

**Plenary round-table panel on boosting the generation and use
of data and statistics to build forward better and accelerate
delivery of sustainable development in Africa**

Information and guidelines for the plenary round-table panel on data and statistics

I. Introduction

1. High-quality data and statistics are essential for designing, implementing and reporting on policies and programmes that will enable countries to confront the challenge of building forward better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis while accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. The looming 2030 deadline makes the need for such data and statistics all the more urgent, especially to keep countries in line with the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

II. Date and time

2. The plenary round-table panel on data and statistics will be held on 3 March 2022 from 2.30 to 4 p.m.

III. Objectives

3. The objectives of the round-table panel are:

(a) To spotlight the importance of accurate data and statistics being available and accessible to apply them as part of an evidence-based COVID-19 recovery strategy and to accelerate the implementation of and reporting on the two agendas;

(b) To highlight and share past experiences and lessons learned and to present ongoing interventions designed to deliver high-quality data and statistics for sustainable development;

(c) To identify and articulate the transformative initiatives and investments needed to boost the generation, accessibility and use of accurate,

* ECA/RFSD/2022/1.



up-to-date and disaggregated data and statistics for a green, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and to accelerate implementation of the two agendas.

IV. Format

4. The discussion will be led by a panel comprising policymakers and senior experts specializing in statistics, science, technology and innovation; relevant government ministries; subregional organizations; the private sector; and civil society. A detailed list is presented in paragraph 6 below.

V. Guidelines

5. The following guidelines will apply to the plenary round-table panel:

(a) The Chair will introduce the round-table panel, including the objective as stated above and the panel members. The Chair will then yield to the moderator, who will guide the discussion among the panellists and other participants;

(b) The moderator will ask the panellist to respond to specific questions as follows:

(i) How have accurate data and statistics contributed to strengthening the implementation and monitoring of the response to the COVID-19 crisis; reporting on that response; and implementation of the two agendas? (Director General of Statistics, Rwanda, Yusuf Murangwa)

(ii) What programmes and investments have been made to deliver high-quality data and statistics for the COVID-19 response and for delivery of sustainable development? (Statistician-Economist, National Agency for Statistics and Demography, Senegal, Meissa Ndour)

(iii) What are some of the good practices and success stories in terms of generating, managing, disseminating and using data and statistics in response to the COVID-19 crisis and in the implementation of the two agendas? What role can non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations play in generating high-quality data and statistics? (Senior Partnerships Manager, Development Initiatives, Bernard Sabiti)

(iv) (iv) How can young people contribute to the development of statistical systems in Africa to make them resilient and agile? (Lecturer in Statistics, Department of Statistics and Demography, National University of Lesotho, Relebohile Bulane)

(v) What roles do digital technologies and innovation play in enhancing the generation, management, dissemination and use of accurate data and statistics? How can they be better harnessed to that end? (Commercial Director, Information and Communication Technology Group, Jospoing Group of Companies, Alex Nyanteh)

(vi) What game-changing programmes and other measures are needed to dramatically improve the generation, management, accessibility, dissemination and use of data and statistics in the context of building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and speeding up the delivery of sustainable development? (Principal Secretary for Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of

Economic Planning and Development and Public Reforms,
Malawi, Winford Masanjala)

(c) The moderator will catalyse an interactive discussion among the panellists;

(d) The moderator will then invite questions and other contributions from the floor;

(e) At the end of the discussion, the moderator will provide a summary of the key policy messages, including recommendations made. The moderator will then yield to the Chair, who will conclude the round-table panel.

VI. Chair, moderator and panellists

6. The Chair, moderator and panellists of the round-table panel discussion will be as follows:

Venue: Plenary Hall (Rooms MH 2 and MH 3)

Chair: Chair of the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum

Moderator: Director, African Centre for Statistics, ECA,
Oliver Chinganya

Panellists:

- Director General, National Institute of Statistics, Rwanda, Yusuf Murangwa
- Statistician-Economist, National Agency for Statistics and Demography, Senegal, Meissa Ndour
- Principal Secretary for Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Reforms, Malawi, Winford Masanjala
- Lecturer in Statistics, Department of Statistics and Demography, National University of Lesotho, Relebohile Bulane
- Senior Partnerships Manager, Development Initiatives, Bernard Sabiti
- Commercial Director, Information and Communication Technology Group, Jospoing Group of Companies, Alex Nyanteh