Economic Commission for Africa
Conference of African Ministers of Finance,
Planning and Economic Development
Fifty-third session
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 22 and 23 March 2021
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda
and programme of work

Programme of work

Monday, 22 March
11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Opening of the session (agenda item 1)
Moderator: Mark Eddo, CEO, Mark Eddo Media
Chair: Mohamed Benchaaboun, Chair of the outgoing Bureau
Opening statements:
- Mohamed Benchaaboun, Minister of Economy, Finance and Administration Reform, Morocco; Chair of the outgoing Bureau
- Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations; Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

Statements by special guests:
- Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance, Ghana
- Minouche Shafik, Director of the London School of Economics; former Deputy Governor, Bank of England
- Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados; Chair, Joint World Bank-International Monetary Fund Development Committee

Official opening address
- Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

*E/ECA/CM/53/1/Rev.1.*
12–12.15 p.m. 

**Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work** (agenda item 2)

12.15 –1.45 p.m. 

**High-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the fifty-third session of the Commission** (agenda item 3)

*Lead speaker:* Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of Finance, Rwanda

**Panellists:**

- Li Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union
- Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance, Ethiopia
- Hala Helmy El-Saeed Younes, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt**
- Albert Muchanga, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, African Union Commission

1.45–2.45 p.m. 

**Lunch break**

2.45–6 p.m.

**2021 Adebayo Adedeji Lecture**

- Robert Davies, Former Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa

**Respondent:**

- Beata Habyarimana, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda

2.45–4.15 p.m.

**High-level panel discussions** (agenda item 4)

**Panel 1: The Big Debate: Was the multilateral system prepared for the COVID-19 crisis and did the private sector do enough?**

*Lead speaker:* Zainab Ahmed, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria

**Panellists:**

- Arkebe Oqubay, Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia
- Alastair Wilson, Managing Director and Head, Moody's Sovereign Risk Group, Moody’s Investment Services
- Masood Ahmed, President, Centre for Global Development
- Abebe Aemro Selassie, Director, Africa Department, International Monetary Fund

**Denotes to be confirmed.**
Nicole Jeanine Lydie Epse Roboty (épouse Mbou), Minister of Economy and Recovery, Gabon**

4.15–4.30 p.m. Health break

4.30–6 p.m. **Panel 2: Managing debt and liquidity**

**Lead speaker:** Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Finance, Côte d’Ivoire

**Panellists:**

- Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance and Economy, Zimbabwe**
- Abdoulaye Bio Tchané, Minister in Charge of Planning and Development, Benin
- Sandra Ablamba Ahoèfavi Johnson, Minister of Planning, Development and International Cooperation, Togo
- Clay Lowery, Executive Vice-President, Institute of International Finance
- Ilyas Dawaleh, Minister of Finance, Djibouti
- Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, French Development Agency
- Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive, African Union Development Agency; Co-Chair, High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity
- Thomas Venon, Partner, Eighteen East Capital

6–6.15 p.m. **Closing of the session**

**Tuesday, 23 March**

11 a.m.–12.30 p.m. **Panel 3: Is Africa ready to finance its own vaccine?** (agenda item 4)

**Moderator:** Lerato Mbele, journalist and presenter, BBC News

**Lead speaker:** Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization

**Panellists:**

- Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- Susan Silbermann, Global Advisor, Pfizer Biopharmaceuticals Group, Pfizer Corporation

**Denotes to be confirmed.**
• Jose Sele Yalaghuli, Minister of Finance, Democratic Republic of the Congo

• Francis Mustapha Kaikai, Minister of Development and Economic Planning, Sierra Leone**

• Amadou Sall, Director, Pasteur Institute of Dakar

• Benedict Oramah, President, Afreximbank

• John Nkengasong, Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

• Stavros Nicolaou, Group Senior Executive, Aspen Pharmacare Holding Ltd

12.30–12.45 Health break

12.45–2.45 p.m. **Consideration of recommendations and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 5)**

Chair: Chair of the Bureau

2.45–3.45 p.m. Lunch break

3.45–4.45 p.m. **Consideration and adoption of the ministerial statement and the communiqué on special drawing rights for low-income and middle-income countries (agenda item 6)**

Chair: Chair of the Bureau

4.45–5.30 p.m. **Other matters (agenda item 7)**

5.30–5.45 p.m. **Closing of the session (agenda item 8)**

Statements:

• Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations; Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

• Chair of the Bureau

** Denotes to be confirmed.